

By: Representative Dickson

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 210

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY
2 CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT SHALL
3 IDENTIFY METHODS TO INCREASE STUDENT PREPAREDNESS FOR SCHOOL AT
4 THE KINDERGARTEN LEVEL; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAKEUP OF THE BOARD OF
5 TRUSTEES FOR THE FOUNDATION; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO MATCH FUNDS
6 APPROPRIATED BY THE STATE WITH PRIVATE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF
7 PROVIDING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE
8 TO ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MISSISSIPPI
9 FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE
10 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MAKE GRANTS TO THE
11 MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOR
12 PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT GRANT
13 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO MAKE
14 GRANTS TO A PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO AID THE MISSISSIPPI
15 FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE
16 MISSISSIPPI FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT TO ADOPT A
17 SYSTEM OF EVALUATION AND TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THE
18 RESULTS OF SUCH EVALUATION; TO REQUIRE ALL AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS,
19 INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE THAT PROVIDE
20 PROGRAMS OR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN THIS STATE TO CREATE,
21 ANNUALLY, AN ITEMIZED LIST OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED
22 TO CHILDREN SO THAT THE LIST CAN BE UTILIZED BY THE FOUNDATION; TO
23 REQUIRE THAT THE LIST CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMS AND
24 SERVICES, A RESOURCE MAPPING OF ALL FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS
25 RECEIVED, COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, THE
26 NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND ANY
27 PERFORMANCE MEASURES USED TO ASSESS THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; TO
28 PROVIDE THAT THE ITEMIZED LISTS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SHALL BE
29 PROVIDED TO THE JOHN C. STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT
30 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH
31 YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STENNIS INSTITUTE SHALL COMPILE THE
32 INFORMATION IN THOSE LISTS INTO ONE DOCUMENT, AND SHALL MAKE THE
33 COMPILED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE FOUNDATION BY DECEMBER 1 OF
34 EACH YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.



35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

36 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Foundation
37 for Early Childhood Development.

38 (2) (a) The purpose of the Mississippi Foundation for Early
39 Childhood Development, a public-private partnership, is to
40 identify cost-effective ways to deliver quality early care and
41 education experiences and parent education for families whose
42 children are at risk of being unprepared for school. The
43 foundation shall develop infrastructure supports and
44 accountability measures to increase the quality of early care and
45 education settings and must build community capacity for school
46 readiness. The foundation will evaluate the resulting benefits
47 and long-term savings to the Mississippi economy and the
48 effectiveness of strategies for increasing children's readiness
49 for school upon entering kindergarten.

50 (b) In addition to the duties prescribed in this
51 section, the foundation shall require all agencies, departments,
52 institutions and political subdivisions of the state that provide
53 programs or services to children in this state to create an
54 itemized list of the programs and services provided by that
55 agency, department, institution or political subdivision. The
56 itemized list shall provide the following information:

57 (i) A description of the programs and services,
58 categorized by program, target population and geographical region;



59 (ii) An itemized resource map of all federal and
60 state funds received for the programs and services;

61 (iii) The performance measures used to assess the
62 expenditure of those funds, the intended outcomes of the programs
63 and services and the actual outcomes of the programs and services;

64 (iv) Any costs associated with operating the
65 programs and services; and

66 (v) The number of children served by the programs
67 and services.

68 The agencies, departments, institutions and political
69 subdivisions shall provide the itemized lists of the programs and
70 services required by this subsection to the John C. Stennis
71 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University not later
72 than September 1 of each year, and the Stennis Institute of
73 Government shall compile the information in those lists into one
74 (1) document, organized both by programs and services and by the
75 agencies, departments, institutions and political subdivisions
76 providing the programs and services. The Stennis Institute shall
77 make the compiled information available to the foundation by
78 December 1 of each year.

79 (3) The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood
80 Development shall seek tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3)
81 of the Internal Revenue Code. The foundation shall be governed by
82 a board comprised of the following seven (7) members:



83 (a) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the
84 House of Representatives, one (1) of whom shall be a
85 representative from the Department of Education and one (1) of
86 whom shall be from the private sector;

87 (b) Two (2) members appointed by the Lieutenant
88 Governor, one (1) of whom shall be the President of the
89 Mississippi Head Start Association and one (1) of whom shall be
90 from the private sector; and

91 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor, two
92 (2) of whom shall be from the industry of private early childhood
93 development and one (1) of whom shall be from the private sector.

94 All appointments of the board shall be for a period of four
95 (4) years. Vacancies shall be filled for the length of an
96 unexpired term only. The board shall elect from its membership a
97 chairperson.

98 (4) The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood
99 Development shall match dollars appropriated from the state with
100 nonpublic dollars raised by the board. The board shall award
101 grants for the following:

102 (a) Pilot projects that demonstrate successful
103 approaches to the delivery of early childhood services and parent
104 education to low-income families;

105 (b) Scholarships to low-income families to access early
106 childhood parent education and high-quality early learning
107 programs for their children; and



108 (c) The development of strategies to improve the
109 quality of early care and education through early learning
110 standards and assessment, a quality rating system, program
111 improvement grants and professional development grants.

112 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature shall appropriate annually to the
113 State Department of Education those state funds that may be
114 necessary to support the Mississippi Foundation for Early
115 Childhood Development in carrying out its functions under this
116 act.

117 **SECTION 3.** (1) Subject to the availability of funding, the
118 State Superintendent of Public Education shall make a grant to the
119 Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood Development to
120 implement an early childhood development grant program for
121 low-income and other challenged families. The goals of the grant
122 program shall be to increase the effectiveness and expand the
123 capacity of public and nonpublic early childhood development
124 programs, which may include child care programs, and to lead to
125 improved early childhood parent education and children's
126 kindergarten readiness. The grant program may not supplant
127 existing early childhood development programs or child care funds.
128 The grant program must include the following components:

129 (a) Grants to existing early childhood development
130 program providers that provide parent education programs and to
131 qualified providers proposing to implement pilot programs for this
132 same purpose;



133 (b) Grants to enable low-income families to participate
134 in these programs;

135 (c) Grants to improve overall programmatic quality; and

136 (d) An evaluation of the programmatic and financial
137 efficacy of all these programs, which may be performed using
138 measures of services, staffing and management systems which:
139 provide consistent information about system performance; show
140 trends; confirm successes; and identify potential problems in
141 early childhood development programs.

142 (2) In order to implement the requirements of subsection (1)
143 of this section, subject to the availability of funding
144 appropriated for such purposes, the State Superintendent of Public
145 Education shall make a grant to a private nonprofit, 501(c)(3)
146 organization. The private nonprofit organization must be governed
147 by a board of directors composed of members from the public and
148 private sectors. The private sector members must compose a simple
149 majority of the board membership. The public sector members must
150 be state and local government officials, kindergarten through
151 Grade 12 or postsecondary educators, and early childhood providers
152 appointed by the Governor. Membership on the board of directors
153 by a state agency official constitutes work duties for the
154 official and does not create a conflict of interest under Section
155 25-4-105. The board of directors shall appoint an executive
156 director and shall seek advice from geographically and ethnically
157 diverse parents of young children and representatives of early



158 childhood development providers, kindergarten through Grade 12 and
159 postsecondary educators, public libraries and the business sector.
160 The board of directors is subject to the Open Meetings Law
161 (Chapter 41, Title 25, Mississippi Code of 1972). All other terms
162 and conditions under which board members serve and operate must be
163 described in the articles and bylaws of the organization.

164 (3) In addition to the duties prescribed under subsection
165 (1) of this section, the Mississippi Foundation for Early
166 Childhood Development shall adopt a quality improvement and rating
167 system for the purpose of evaluating a program's effectiveness.
168 The quality improvement and rating system must serve in performing
169 the following functions:

170 (a) Providing consumer information to parents on child
171 care and early education program quality and ratings;

172 (b) Setting indicators to identify quality in care and
173 early education settings, including licensed family child care
174 centers, tribal providers and programs, Head Start and school-age
175 programs, and identifying quality programs through ratings and
176 ongoing monitoring of programs;

177 (c) Providing funds for provider improvement grants and
178 quality achievement grants;

179 (d) Requiring participating providers to incorporate
180 the state's early learning standards in their curriculum
181 activities and developing appropriate child assessments aligned
182 with the kindergarten readiness assessment;



183 (e) Providing accountability for the quality
184 improvement and rating system's effectiveness in improving child
185 outcomes and kindergarten readiness; and

186 (f) Aligning current and new state investments to
187 improve the quality of child care with the quality improvement and
188 rating system framework, by providing accountability and informed
189 parent choice. The Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood
190 Development shall report to the Legislature before January 15,
191 2016, on the progress being made under this paragraph.

192 (4) In addition to other duties prescribed in this act, the
193 Mississippi Foundation for Early Childhood Development shall make
194 available to the public the results of the quality improvement and
195 the rating system that is conducted, as required in subsection (3)
196 of this section, for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness
197 of a program. The board shall post the results of the rating
198 system each time an assessment is completed, and the postings
199 shall be made available to the public on the following state Web
200 sites: the Mississippi Department of Education, the Board of
201 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Mississippi
202 Division of Medicaid, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health
203 and the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

204 (5) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2018.

205 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
206 and after July 1, 2014.

