

By: Representative Barker

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 991

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT IN THE CHICKASAW COUNTY, HOUSTON AND  
2 OKOLONA SCHOOL DISTRICTS THERE SHALL BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE  
3 CONSOLIDATION INTO ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE  
4 CHICKASAW COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT EFFECTIVE JULY 1,  
5 2020; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION AND SELECTION OF THE BOARD OF  
6 TRUSTEES OF THE NEW CHICKASAW COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT;  
7 TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADMINISTRATIVELY  
8 CONSOLIDATE ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT WHICH DOES NOT VOLUNTARILY FOLLOW  
9 THE CONSOLIDATION ORDER; TO ABOLISH THE FORMER SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
10 FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION AND PROVIDE FOR THE  
11 TRANSFER OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES; TO PROVIDE FOR  
12 EXECUTION OF TEACHER AND SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS AND  
13 THE PREPARATION OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET IN THE NEW SCHOOL  
14 DISTRICT; TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE  
15 REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION; TO  
16 PROVIDE A TWO-YEAR WAIVER FROM ACCOUNTABILITY AND STATE ASSESSMENT  
17 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW STUDENT POPULATION; TO AMEND SECTION  
18 37-7-103, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED  
19 PURPOSES.

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

21 **SECTION 1.** (1) In Chickasaw County, Mississippi, in which  
22 are located, as of January 1, 2016, three (3) school districts,  
23 there shall be an administrative consolidation of all of those  
24 school districts in the county into one (1) new school district to  
25 be designated as Chickasaw County Consolidated School District  
26 which shall consist of the territory of the former Chickasaw



27 County School District, the Houston School District and the  
28 Okolona School District, effective on July 1, 2020. At such time  
29 that the administrative consolidation becomes effective, the  
30 central administrative office of the Chickasaw County Consolidated  
31 School District shall be located in Houston, Mississippi.

32 (2) (a) On or before September 1, 2019, the State Board of  
33 Education shall serve the local school boards of the Chickasaw  
34 County School District, the Houston School District and the  
35 Okolona School District with notice and instructions regarding the  
36 timetable for action to be taken to comply with the administrative  
37 consolidation required in this section. The State Board of  
38 Education shall provide for the administrative consolidation of  
39 Chickasaw County School District, the Houston School District and  
40 the Okolona School District on or before July 1, 2020. In the new  
41 Chickasaw County Consolidated School District, there shall be a  
42 new county board of education elected on the first Tuesday after  
43 the first Monday in November 2019, at the same time and in the  
44 same manner as the statewide general election is held and  
45 conducted, for that purpose. The new county board of education  
46 shall be elected and the terms of office established as provided  
47 in Section 37-5-7(3). The State Board of Education shall declare  
48 that the territory embraced by Chickasaw County, Mississippi, and  
49 any added territory in any adjacent county, which is currently  
50 within the jurisdiction of either of the former school districts  
51 abolished under this act, shall be the boundary lines for the



52 territory of the new Chickasaw County Consolidated School District  
53 and shall spread a legal description of the new school district on  
54 the minutes of its August 2019 meeting and shall serve the  
55 applicable school boards and the board of supervisors with an  
56 adequate legal description of these new boundaries. It shall be  
57 the responsibility of the board of supervisors of such county to  
58 apportion the newly consolidated school district into five (5) new  
59 single member board of education election districts, which shall  
60 be consistent with the apportioned population of the three (3)  
61 former districts within Chickasaw County and any added territory  
62 in any adjacent county as those districts existed on July 1, 2016.  
63 The board of supervisors of the county shall thereafter publish  
64 the same in some newspaper of general circulation in the county  
65 for at least three (3) consecutive weeks and after having given  
66 notice of publication and recording the same upon the minutes of  
67 the school boards of each appropriate school district in the  
68 county, the new district lines will thereafter be effective for  
69 the November 2019 general election.

70 (b) Any school district affected by the required  
71 administrative consolidation in Chickasaw County that does not  
72 voluntarily consolidate as ordered by the State Board of Education  
73 shall be administratively consolidated by the State Board of  
74 Education, to be effective on July 1, 2020. The State Board of  
75 Education shall promptly move on its own motion to  
76 administratively consolidate a school district which does not



77 voluntarily consolidate in order to enable the affected school  
78 districts to reasonably accomplish the resulting administrative  
79 consolidation into the Chickasaw County Consolidated School  
80 District by July 1, 2020, following the election of the new board  
81 of trustees. The affected school districts shall comply with any  
82 consolidation order issued by the State Board of Education on or  
83 before July 1 following the election of the new board of trustees.

84 (3) (a) On July 1, 2020, following the selection of the new  
85 board of trustees of the Chickasaw County Consolidated School  
86 District, the former county board of education for Chickasaw  
87 County, the former board of trustees of the Houston School  
88 District and the former board of trustees of the Okolona School  
89 Districts shall be abolished. All real and personal property  
90 which is owned or titled in the name of the school district  
91 located in such former school districts shall be transferred to  
92 the new Chickasaw County Consolidated School District.

93 (b) The new board of trustees of the Chickasaw County  
94 Consolidated School District shall be responsible for establishing  
95 the contracts for teachers, principals, clerical and  
96 administrative staff personnel for the 2020-2021 school year and  
97 each school year thereafter.

98 (c) The new board of trustees for the Chickasaw County  
99 Consolidated School District shall appoint the superintendent of  
100 schools for the school district. The superintendent of schools  
101 for the Chickasaw County Consolidated School District may appoint



102 an assistant superintendent of schools for the district, but in no  
103 instance shall the administrative leadership of the Chickasaw  
104 County Consolidated School District have more than one (1)  
105 assistant superintendent of education. The subsequent  
106 superintendent of schools of the consolidated school district  
107 shall not be elected, but shall thereafter be appointed by the  
108 successor board of trustees in the manner provided in Section  
109 37-9-25. It shall be the responsibility of the successor board of  
110 trustees to prepare and approve the budget of the new consolidated  
111 district, and the successor board of trustees may use staff from  
112 the former school districts to prepare the budget. Any proposed  
113 order of the State Board of Education directing the transfer of  
114 the assets, real or personal property of an affected school  
115 district in the county, shall be final and conclusive for the  
116 purposes of the transfer of property required by such  
117 administrative consolidation.

118 (d) Any person or school district aggrieved by an order  
119 of the successor newly selected board of trustees of the Chickasaw  
120 County Consolidated School District pursuant to the required  
121 administrative consolidation may appeal therefrom within ten (10)  
122 days from the date of the adjournment of the meeting at which such  
123 order is entered. The appeal shall be taken in the same manner as  
124 appeals are taken from judgments or decisions of the board of  
125 supervisors as provided in Section 11-51-75, the provisions of  
126 which shall be fully applicable to appeals taken hereunder. The



127 board of trustees of the Chickasaw County Consolidated School  
128 District shall not pass upon or approve or disapprove any such  
129 order until the time for an appeal therefrom has expired, nor  
130 shall the board pass upon or approve or disapprove any such order  
131 from which an appeal is taken until said appeal has been finally  
132 determined.

133 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require  
134 the closing of any school or school facility, unless the facility  
135 is an unneeded administrative office located within a school  
136 district which has been abolished under the provisions of this  
137 section. All administrative consolidations under this section  
138 shall be accomplished so as not to delay or in any manner  
139 negatively affect the desegregation of another school district in  
140 the county pursuant to court order.

141 (5) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
142 regulations to facilitate the administrative consolidation of the  
143 school districts in Chickasaw County pursuant to this section.  
144 The consolidated districts shall make an election within one (1)  
145 year of consolidation concerning the group term life insurance  
146 described in subsection (7) of Section 25-15-9.

147 (6) The County Board of Education and the Superintendent of  
148 Education of the former Chickasaw County School District, the  
149 local school board and Superintendent of Schools of the Houston  
150 School District and the local school board and Superintendent of  
151 Schools of the Okolona School District shall cooperate with the



152 State Department of Education, as soon as practicable after the  
153 effective date of this act, for the planning and transition of  
154 programs, services and alignment of curriculum for the  
155 administratively consolidated school districts.

156 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-103, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
157 amended as follows:

158 37-7-103. From and after July 1, 1987, the school board of  
159 any school district shall have full jurisdiction, power and  
160 authority, at any regular meeting thereof or at any special  
161 meeting called for that purpose, to abolish such existing  
162 district, or to reorganize, change or alter the boundaries of any  
163 such district. In addition thereto, with the consent of the  
164 school board of the school district involved, the school board may  
165 add to such school district any part of the school district  
166 adjoining same, and with the consent of the school board of the  
167 school district involved, may detach territory from such school  
168 district and annex same to an adjoining district. Provided,  
169 however, that the consent of the school board of the school  
170 districts involved in implementing the provisions of Section  
171 37-7-104 or \* \* \* Section 1 of this act shall not be required for  
172 the administrative consolidation of such school districts pursuant  
173 to the order of the State Board of Education.

174 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
175 and after July 1, 2016.

