

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2274

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-21-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES INTERAGENCY COORDINATING  
3 COUNCIL TO COORDINATE PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES AND TO PRESCRIBE  
4 THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-21-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-21-53. (1) \* \* \* The Early Childhood Services  
9 Interagency Coordinating Council is created to ensure coordination  
10 among the various agencies and programs serving preschool children  
11 in order to leverage resources, align processes, reduce  
12 duplication of effort, and strengthen the quality of all state and  
13 federally funded programs serving preschool-age children.

14 (2) The membership of the \* \* \* Early Childhood Services  
15 Interagency Coordinating Council shall be as follows:

16 (a) \* \* \* The State Superintendent of Public Education  
17 or his or her designee;

18 (b) \* \* \* The State Health Officer of the Mississippi  
19 State Department of Health or his or her designee;



20 (c) \* \* \* The Executive Director of the Department of  
21 Human Services or his or her designee; and

22 (d) \* \* \* The Head Start Collaboration Director, Office  
23 of the Governor.

24 \* \* \*

25 (3) The council shall meet upon the call of the Governor on  
26 or before September 1, 2016, and shall organize for business by  
27 selecting a chairman and adopting bylaws.

28 (4) The Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating  
29 Council shall perform each of the following duties:

30 (a) Serve as the interagency coordinating council for  
31 the various agencies and state-funded programs serving preschool  
32 children and their families in the State of Mississippi;

33 (b) Align paperwork, monitoring visits, and evaluation  
34 of early education providers when state or federally funded  
35 programs overlap to eliminate duplication of effort. Alignment  
36 tasks may include:

37 (i) Jointly conducting monitoring or evaluation  
38 visits;

39 (ii) Developing and using common forms or other  
40 paperwork;

41 (iii) Sharing compliance or other data across  
42 agencies to reduce the number of agencies seeking similar  
43 information;



44 (c) As a first step in an application review process,  
45 determine whether applicants and awardees of the Early Learning  
46 Collaborative Act meet the minimum statutory requirements to  
47 participate in the program prior to the full review by the  
48 Mississippi Department of Education. This first step of review  
49 shall examine:

50 (i) Whether each listed provider meets the  
51 definition of "provider" as specified in Section 37-21-51(c);

52 (ii) Whether the specified lead partner meets the  
53 definition of "lead partner" as described in Section 37-21-51;

54 (iii) Whether the proposed collaborative council  
55 meets the definition of "collaborative council" as specified in  
56 Section 37-21-51(b);

57 (iv) Whether the application maximizes current and  
58 new resources across provider types, including the distribution of  
59 proposed collaborative funds;

60 (v) Whether childcare applicants are licensed and  
61 in good standing;

62 (vi) Whether Head Start centers are recognized  
63 programs; and

64 (vii) Whether lead partners have the financial  
65 capacity to manage state funds appropriately;

66 (d) Develop standards for core competency development  
67 for teachers through professional continuing education, in



68 consultation with the schools of education in the university  
69 system for articulation purposes.

70 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
71 and after July 1, 2016.

