

By: Representative Scott

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 466

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILDREN'S RESOURCE COMMISSION; TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION IS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING AND
3 STREAMLINING THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO PROVIDE NEEDED SERVICES TO
4 MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN; TO PROVIDE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE
5 COMMISSION; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
6 AND CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER
7 1 OF EACH YEAR; TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ADOPT INTERNAL
8 ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF
9 THE COMMISSION; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH
10 SUBCOMMITTEES FOR CONDUCTING SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES; TO
11 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO CREATE RESOURCE MAPS OF ALL FUNDS
12 RECEIVED FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT CHILDREN IN THIS
13 STATE, TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
14 AND TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF MERGING, CONTINUING OR
15 DISCONTINUING THOSE PROGRAMS OR SERVICES; TO REQUIRE ALL AGENCIES,
16 DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE
17 THAT PROVIDE PROGRAMS OR SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN THIS STATE TO
18 ANNUALLY CREATE AN ITEMIZED LIST OF THOSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES,
19 AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ITEMIZED
20 LISTS OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE JOHN C.
21 STENNIS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
22 NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
23 STENNIS INSTITUTE SHALL COMPILE THE INFORMATION IN THOSE LISTS
24 INTO ONE DOCUMENT, AND PROVIDE THE COMPILED INFORMATION TO THE
25 COMMISSION AND CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE EACH YEAR; TO
26 REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION RECEIVED AND
27 PREPARED BY IT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; AND FOR
28 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

30 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Children's Resource
31 Commission, which is charged with coordinating and streamlining



32 the state's efforts to provide needed services to Mississippi's
33 children. The commission shall focus on a broad range of issues
34 and challenges, including fighting abuse and neglect, promoting
35 foster care and adoption, and raising public awareness of
36 children's issues.

37 (2) The commission shall have seventeen (17) members,
38 consisting of the following:

39 (a) One (1) person appointed by the Governor who has
40 demonstrated a strong commitment to and understanding of the
41 challenges and issues affecting Mississippi's children;

42 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
43 Services, or his or her designee;

44 (c) A representative from a Mississippi public school
45 program, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

46 (d) A representative from a Mississippi private school
47 program, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

48 (e) The Executive Director of the State Department of
49 Health, or his or her designee;

50 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of
51 Mental Health, or his or her designee;

52 (g) The Commissioner of Higher Education, or his or her
53 designee;

54 (h) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Community
55 College Board, or his or her designee;



56 (i) The State Superintendent of Public Education, or
57 his or her designee;

58 (j) A member of the Mississippi Association of
59 Counselor Educators and Supervisors;

60 (k) A member of the Mississippi School Counselors
61 Association;

62 (l) A member of the Mississippi Community and Junior
63 College Counselors Association;

64 (m) A member of the Mississippi Association of Social
65 Workers;

66 (n) A member of the Mississippi Association of Marriage
67 and Family Therapists;

68 (o) A member of the Mississippi Primary Health Care
69 Association;

70 (p) A member of the Mississippi State Workforce
71 Investment Board; and

72 (q) A member of the Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing
73 Association.

74 (3) The commission shall conduct its first meeting not
75 later than August 1, 2018. During its first meeting, the
76 commission shall choose a chairperson, a vice chairperson and a
77 secretary by majority vote, who shall serve in these positions for
78 twelve (12) months. The commission shall vote on these positions
79 annually. After the commission holds its first meeting, it shall
80 meet at such times and places as determined by its chairperson or



81 a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall
82 meet and conduct business at least quarterly.

83 The commission shall adopt internal organizational
84 procedures necessary for the efficient operation of the commission
85 and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific programs
86 and activities. The procedures must include duties of officers, a
87 process for selecting officers, duties of subcommittees, quorum
88 requirements for conducting business and policies for any staff.
89 Members of the commission who are agency or department employees
90 shall designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the
91 commission in performing its duties and responsibilities.

92 Meetings of the commission shall be open to the public, and
93 opportunity for public comment must be made available at each
94 meeting. The staff of the commission shall notify all persons who
95 request that notice as to the date, time and place of each
96 meeting.

97 (4) The commission shall have the following duties:

98 (a) Design and oversee an itemized resource mapping of
99 all federal and state funding sources that support the health,
100 safety, permanence, growth, development and education of children
101 in this state from conception through the age of majority;

102 (b) Assess the effectiveness of programs and services
103 provided by agencies, departments, institutions and political
104 subdivisions of the state that receive federal and state funds for
105 the health, safety, permanence, growth, development and education



106 of children in this state from conception through the age of
107 majority;

108 (c) Determine the feasibility of merging, continuing or
109 discontinuing the existence of those programs and services
110 provided by agencies, departments, institutions or political
111 subdivisions of the state;

112 (d) File a report with the Chairperson and Vice
113 Chairperson of the Appropriations, Education and Public Health and
114 Human Services Committees of the Mississippi House of
115 Representatives, and the Appropriations, Education and Public
116 Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi Senate by
117 December 1 of each year; and

118 (e) Conduct a meeting with the report to the
119 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Appropriations, Education
120 and Public Health and Human Services Committees of the Mississippi
121 House of Representatives, and the Appropriations, Education and
122 Public Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi Senate to
123 explain the statewide impact of the report by December 15 of each
124 year.

125 (5) The resource mapping required by subsection (4) of this
126 section shall provide:

127 (a) An inventory of all federal and state funding
128 sources that support children in this state;

129 (b) An inventory of all state, federal or government
130 subsidized services and programs offered to children in this



131 state, set out by program, target population, geographical region,
132 agency or any other grouping that would assist the commission in
133 determining whether there are overlapping programs that lead to
134 duplication within the state, gaps in service delivery and any
135 administrative inefficiencies generally;

136 (c) A description of the manner in which the funds are
137 being used within the agencies or organizations, the performance
138 measures in place to assess the use of such funding, the intended
139 outcomes of the programs and services and the actual outcomes of
140 the programs and services;

141 (d) Government mandates for the use of the funds, if
142 any; and

143 (e) An inventory of the funds for which the state may
144 be eligible, but is currently not receiving or using, and the
145 reasons why the funds are not being used.

146 (6) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation
147 for their service on the panel but may receive reimbursement for
148 travel expenses incurred while engaged in the official business of
149 the commission.

150 **SECTION 2.** (1) All agencies, departments, institutions and
151 political subdivisions of the state that provide programs or
152 services to children in this state shall annually create an
153 itemized list of the programs and services provided by that
154 agency, department, institution or political subdivision. The
155 itemized list shall provide the following information:



156 (a) A description of the programs and services,
157 categorized by program, target population and geographical region;
158 (b) An itemized resource map of all federal and state
159 funds received for the programs and services;
160 (c) The performance measures used to assess the
161 expenditure of those funds, the intended outcomes of the programs
162 and services and the actual outcomes of the programs and services;
163 (d) Any costs associated with operating the programs
164 and services; and
165 (e) The number of children served by the programs and
166 services.

167 (2) The agencies, departments, institutions and political
168 subdivisions shall provide the itemized lists of the programs and
169 services required by subsection (1) of this section to the John C.
170 Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University
171 (Stennis Institute) not later than September 1 of each year. The
172 Stennis Institute shall compile the information in those lists
173 into one (1) document, organized both by programs and services and
174 by the agencies, departments, institutions and political
175 subdivisions providing the programs and services. The Stennis
176 Institute shall provide the compiled information to the Children's
177 Resource Commission not later than November 1 of each year, and
178 shall make the compiled information available to the Chairperson
179 and Vice Chairperson of the Appropriations, Education and Public
180 Health and Human Services Committees of the Mississippi House of



181 Representatives, and the Appropriations, Education and Public
182 Health and Welfare Committees of the Mississippi Senate not later
183 than December 1 of each year.

184 (3) All agencies, departments, institutions and political
185 subdivisions of the state shall cooperate with the Children's
186 Resource Commission in fulfilling its duties. The information
187 required by this section shall be updated and provided to the
188 Children's Resource Commission not later than September 1 of each
189 year.

190 (4) The Children's Resource Commission shall provide the
191 information received by the commission and the information
192 prepared by the commission to the Division of Early Childhood Care
193 and Development of the Department of Human Services in a format
194 that does not identify any individuals.

195 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
196 and after July 1, 2018.

