

By: Representative Clarke

To: Public Health and Human Services; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 531

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILD CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO ADVISE  
2 THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE  
3 AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD CARE AND  
4 DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT STATE PLAN; TO PROVIDE THE MEMBERSHIP OF  
5 THE COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS; TO PROVIDE  
6 PROCEDURES FOR CALLING AND HOLDING MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES  
7 OF THE COUNCIL; TO REQUIRE THE COUNCIL TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS  
8 FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** There is created the Child Care Advisory Council.  
11 The purpose of the council is to advise the Division of Early  
12 Childhood Care and Development at the Mississippi Department of  
13 Human Services on the development of the Child Care and  
14 Development Block Grant state plan and all aspects of the  
15 implementation of the Child Care and Development Block Grant child  
16 care program and spending priorities.

17 **SECTION 2.** (1) The council shall be composed of the  
18 following twelve (12) members:

19 (a) Eight (8) licensed child care providers who  
20 participate in the Child Care Subsidy program;



21 (b) Three (3) parents who receive a child care subsidy  
22 at the time of that parent's appointment, appointed by the  
23 director of the Division of Early Childhood Care and Development;  
24 and

25 (c) One (1) parent or other consumer of child care  
26 services who does not receive a child care subsidy, appointed by  
27 the Governor.

28 (2) The child care providers will be selected from child  
29 care organizations such as Delta Licensed Providers, Child Care  
30 Directors Network, Mississippi Early Childhood Association,  
31 Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative, and Mississippi  
32 Early Childhood Alliance. Council members must be represented  
33 from each Congressional District.

34 **SECTION 3.** (1) The director of the Division of Early  
35 Childhood Care and Development shall call the first meeting of the  
36 council by July 1, 2018. At the first meeting, the council shall  
37 select by majority vote a chair, vice chair, secretary, assistant  
38 secretary and treasurer from among its members to serve a term of  
39 one (1) year. All other members serve three (3) year terms and  
40 may continue to serve beyond their terms until their successors  
41 are appointed. Each office may be reelected to later terms. If a  
42 vacancy occurs before a term has expired, the vacancy must be  
43 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the authority  
44 who made the original appointment.



45 (2) The chair shall call later meetings. The council may  
46 meet as often as determined necessary by the council members, and  
47 must meet at least four (4) times per year at a date, time and  
48 place determined by the council.

49 (3) The chair, in collaboration with the Department of Human  
50 Services, may call a special meeting to address an issue that, in  
51 the judgment of the chair, cannot wait until the next regularly  
52 scheduled meeting.

53 **SECTION 4.** The council must have access to all records of  
54 the Department of Human Services regarding child care programs and  
55 spending priorities administered under this act, except for  
56 information that identifies individuals who receive assistance  
57 under this chapter.

58 **SECTION 5.** The council shall have the following duties:

59 (a) Advise the Division of Early Childhood Care and  
60 Development on the development of the Child Care and Development  
61 Block Grant state plan, and all aspects of the implementation of  
62 the Child Care and Development Block Grant child care program  
63 including spending and contracts;

64 (b) Advise the Division of Early Childhood Care and  
65 Development regarding the preparation of any application,  
66 amendment, waiver request, plan or other document submitted by the  
67 Department of Human Services to the federal government regarding  
68 child care funding and recommend changes to the submission when  
69 appropriate; and



70 (c) Advise the director of the Division of Early  
71 Childhood Care and Development how the state can better use all  
72 the funds related to the child care subsidy including the Quality  
73 Rate and Improvement System spending and contracts and Temporary  
74 Assistance for Needy Families funds for the child care subsidy  
75 program in order to serve more children and develop a funding  
76 proposal that will prioritize serving more children that qualify.

77 **SECTION 6.** By October 15, 2019, the council shall submit an  
78 annual report to the Governor's office and the standing committees  
79 of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human services  
80 matters. The report must describe the council's activities for  
81 the year regarding its duties and must outline policy changes  
82 recommended by the council, along with necessary implementing  
83 legislation. All reports are public information and shall be  
84 posted on the Mississippi Department of Human Services website.

85 **SECTION 7.** The Department of Human Services shall provide  
86 staff and office supplies to the council within the existing  
87 resources of the department. The council may refuse these services  
88 and supplies and may accept and expend private funds to carry out  
89 its duties under this chapter.

90 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
91 and after July 1, 2018.

