

By: Representatives Karriem, Holloway,
Hines, Bell (65th)

To: Youth and Family
Affairs; Workforce
Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 825

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE; TO
2 SPECIFY THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Labor,
5 in 2016, the rate of unemployment in Mississippi for youth, ages
6 16 to 24, was 12.6%, which was the seventh highest rate in the
7 nation; and

8 WHEREAS, youth who are neither working nor in school,
9 including those without a high school diploma and youth who have
10 low school attendance and jobless high school students are in need
11 of opportunities to succeed as adults; and

12 WHEREAS, many of these youth who are neither working nor in
13 school, including those without a high school diploma and those
14 who are low-attending jobless high school students, come from
15 families with low incomes; and

16 WHEREAS, many of these youth need opportunities to become
17 successful adults and would benefit from education and employment
18 opportunities if these opportunities are structured using evidence



19 based/best program practices of smaller, more flexible and more
20 structured comprehensive programming to address their education,
21 work and social development needs; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

23 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Youth Unemployment Task
24 Force to examine policies, programs and other issues related to
25 developing a variety of successful approaches using best program
26 practices for out-of-school and jobless youth students with the
27 goal of improving their education, work-related, and social
28 development skills so that they can successfully enter the
29 workforce and become productive adults.

30 Duties of the task force shall include the following:

31 (a) Review data regarding the current number of
32 unemployed youth, ages 16-24, in this state and the education
33 level and dropout rate of those youth;

34 (b) Evaluate current methods that are used by the
35 Department of Education to assist youth who are at risk of
36 dropping out of school;

37 (c) Review data regarding early guidance and counseling
38 that is given to youth in regard to obtaining future occupations;
39 and

40 (d) Develop best practices for future job skills for
41 youth.



42 The task force shall make a report of its findings and
43 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2018, including
44 any recommended legislation.

45 (2) The task force shall be composed of nine (9) members, as
46 follows:

47 (a) Three (3) members of the House of Representatives
48 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

49 (b) Three (3) members of the Senate to be appointed by
50 the Lieutenant Governor;

51 (c) The State Superintendent of Education or her
52 designee;

53 (d) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
54 Services or his designee; and

55 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of
56 Employment Security or his designee.

57 (3) Legislative appointments shall be made within thirty
58 (30) days after the effective date of this act. Within fifteen
59 (15) days thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the
60 Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force
61 shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a
62 chairman and a vice chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve
63 as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of
64 the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall
65 constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the
66 adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of



67 a majority of the task force shall be required. All members shall
68 be notified in writing of all meetings, and those notices shall be
69 mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a
70 meeting is to be held.

71 (4) The members of the task force who are not legislators
72 shall be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section
73 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 25-3-41
74 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the performance of
75 their duties. Legislative members of the task force shall be paid
76 from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in
77 the same manner as provided for committee meetings when the
78 Legislature is not in session. However, no per diem or expenses
79 for attending meetings of the task force will be paid to
80 legislative members of the task force while the Legislature is in
81 session. No task force member may incur per diem, travel or other
82 expenses unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the
83 task force, which action shall be recorded in the official minutes
84 of the meeting. The nonlegislative members shall be paid from any
85 funds made available to the task force for that purpose.

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after July 1, 2018.

