

By: Representative Mims

To: Public Health and Human  
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1384

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-1-65, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 CREATE A STATEWIDE QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS TO  
3 IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF QUALITY OF CHILD CARE CENTERS AND ENSURE  
4 CONTINUITY OF HIGH QUALITY CARE AS A CHILD TRANSITIONS ACROSS  
5 PROGRAMS AND INTO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE THAT UNDER THE  
6 STATEWIDE QUALITY FRAMEWORK, CHILD CARE CENTERS WILL BE ABLE TO  
7 ACHIEVE A STANDARD OR COMPREHENSIVE DESIGNATION FROM THE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES; TO SPECIFY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS  
9 TO BE DESIGNATED AS A STANDARD OR COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CARE CENTER;  
10 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-1-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

14 43-1-65. (1) The Department of Human Services shall  
15 establish the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System by  
16 requiring the Office for Children and Youth of the Department of  
17 Human Services, the lead agency for the Child Care and Development  
18 Fund (CCDF), to develop and implement a pilot voluntary Quality  
19 Rating System (QRS). The purpose of the pilot system will be to  
20 improve the quality of all licensed early care and education and  
21 after-school programs. The system is to be phased in over the  
22 next five (5) years beginning July 1, 2006, subject to



appropriation. The QRS criteria will be the basis, at minimum, for the QRS, and shall address the following components: administrative policy, professional development, learning environment, and parental involvement and evaluation.

(2) In addition, the Office for Children and Youth shall develop and administer funds, based on appropriation, to create a Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) statewide system in collaboration with community and junior colleges, universities, Mississippi Public Broadcasting, state agencies and/or nonprofit community entities. The CCR&R agencies shall provide training specific to the QRS criteria to enable early care and education program quality to improve as measured by the QRS system; and offer parent education information and training on what a quality early care and education program comprises and how to identify one. This program shall begin July 1, 2006, subject to appropriation.

(3) (a) There is created a Statewide Quality Framework for child care centers, the purpose of which is to improve the level of quality of child care centers and ensure continuity of high quality care as a child transitions across programs and into the K-12 school system. The Statewide Quality Framework will allow child care centers to achieve a standard or comprehensive designation from the Department of Human Services as provided in this subsection.



47           (b) Standard child care centers shall be licensed  
48 through the State Department of Health and meet minimum federal  
49 and state child care center standards. All staff must complete  
50 mandatory training as required by the Child Care and Development  
51 Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014. In addition, standard child care  
52 centers must meet the following requirements:

53           (i) All staff must complete fifteen (15) hours of  
54 continuing professional development annually as prescribed by the  
55 CCDBG Act. The professional development areas include health and  
56 safety; educational standards and best practices; recognizing  
57 signs, symptoms or behaviors of child abuse and neglect;  
58 professional development that addresses social-emotional and  
59 behavioral development, mental health, expulsion, and exclusionary  
60 discipline practices in child care settings; and developmental and  
61 behavioral screenings.

62           (ii) The curriculum implemented in the child care  
63 center must align with the state early learning guidelines for  
64 infants and toddlers and the state early learning guidelines for  
65 three- and four-year-olds.

66           (iii) The child care center must complete an  
67 annual self-assessment process through the Department of Human  
68 Services.

69           (c) Comprehensive child care centers shall meet the  
70 requirements of a standard child care center and shall engage in  
71 additional activities specifically designed to improve the quality



of the learning experience for three- and four-year-old children.  
Technical assistance to achieve the comprehensive designation will  
be available through the Mississippi Community College Early Child  
Academy. To be designated as a comprehensive child care center, a  
child care center must be certified by the Department of Human  
Services and meet the following requirements:

(i) Child care center staff must complete  
additional customized professional development annually beyond the  
standard fifteen (15) hours.

(ii) Coaching aimed at closing education and  
credential gaps that child care center staff might have must be  
undertaken.

(iii) Children enrolled in the center must be  
assessed a minimum of twice a year.

(iv) Centers must work with an external evaluator  
to examine how programs and activities are implemented in the  
center.

(v) Family engagement activities that will  
encourage parents to participate in parenting classes and  
parent-teacher organizations (PTOs) must be undertaken.

(vi) The center must engage in technical  
assistance on an annual basis for the implementation of a  
continuous quality improvement plan, kindergarten transition plan,  
business management plan, and, when necessary, corrective action  
plan.



97           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
98 and after July 1, 2019.

