

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Sparks

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2151

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE EDUCATION CONTINUUM FOR MISSISSIPPI'S  
2 FUTURE TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH, REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
3 THE STATE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE STATE'S EDUCATION COORDINATING  
4 AGENCIES FOR EARLY EDUCATION THROUGH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION; AND  
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** There is created the Education Continuum for  
8 Mississippi's Future Task Force, which shall be responsible for  
9 studying the state's current system of coordinating agencies for  
10 early education through postsecondary education.

11 **SECTION 2.** (1) The task force shall be composed of thirteen  
12 (13) members from Mississippi as follows:

13 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Universities  
14 and Colleges Committees, who shall serve as co-chairmen of the  
15 task force;

16 (b) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Education  
17 Committees;

18 (c) Two (2) members from Mississippi with significant  
19 experience in public K-12 education, with one (1) member selected



20 by the Lieutenant Governor and one (1) member selected by the  
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

22 (d) Two (2) members from Mississippi with significant  
23 experience in community and junior college education, with one (1)  
24 member selected by the Lieutenant Governor and one (1) member  
25 selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

26 (e) Two (2) members from Mississippi with significant  
27 experience in public undergraduate or graduate higher education,  
28 with one (1) member selected by the Lieutenant Governor and one  
29 (1) member selected by the Speaker of the House of  
30 Representatives;

31 (f) A member from Mississippi with significant  
32 experience in early childhood education appointed by the Governor;

33 (g) A member with significant experience in business  
34 appointed by the Governor; and

35 (h) A member with significant experience in workforce  
36 development appointed by the Governor.

37 (2) Appointees to the task force shall not include the State  
38 Superintendent of Education, any current member of the State Board  
39 of Education, the Executive Director of the Mississippi Community  
40 College Board, any current member of the Mississippi Community  
41 College Board, the Commissioner of Higher Education or any current  
42 member of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
43 Learning.



44           (3) The chairmen of the task force shall jointly call the  
45 first meeting, at which time the task force shall set a schedule  
46 for meeting and adopting rules for transacting its business and  
47 keeping records. Members of the task force shall receive a per  
48 diem in the amount provided in Section 25-3-69 for each day  
49 engaged in the business of the task force. Members of the task  
50 force other than the legislative members shall receive  
51 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged in office  
52 business of the task force in accordance with Section 25-3-41.  
53 Legislative members of the task force shall receive the expense  
54 allowance provided in Section 5-1-47.

55           (4) The duties of the task force shall be to research,  
56 review and make recommendations related to:

57           (a) The cost and efficiency of the current structure of  
58 the state's education coordinating agencies, including the  
59 Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Community College  
60 Board, and the Mississippi institutions of higher learning;

61           (b) The coordination of the current structure related  
62 to transitions from early childhood to elementary education,  
63 elementary to secondary education and secondary education to  
64 workforce training and/or postsecondary education, with the goal  
65 of creating a seamless system students enter in early childhood  
66 and exit when they are prepared to enter the workforce, whether  
67 after receiving a high school diploma, nondegree credential, or  
68 associate, bachelor or graduate degree;



69           (c) The efficiency and outcomes of current  
70 collaborations between education coordinating agencies in the  
71 state, including, but not limited to, the efficacy of dual credit  
72 and enrollment programs, and career and technical education;

73           (d) The ability to set and carry out the state's  
74 educational attainment goals; and

75           (e) The distribution and use of federal, state and  
76 local dollars in carrying out the state's educational attainment  
77 goals.

78           (5) The task force shall report in writing to the  
79 Mississippi State Legislature by October 1, 2021, with  
80 recommendations as to any necessary statutory changes.

81           (6) The task force shall have access to any and all  
82 information, including, but not limited to, any and all  
83 information housed within the Mississippi Department of Health,  
84 Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Community College  
85 Board or Mississippi institutions of higher learning, as necessary  
86 to fulfill the responsibilities provided in this section.

87           (7) If the task force requests information from a state  
88 agency or local governmental arm, the agency or entity shall  
89 provide the information to the task force in an expeditious  
90 manner.

91           (8) The Legislative Budget Office and Joint Committee on  
92 Performance Evaluation and Expenditure shall supply the necessary  
93 staff and research assistance needed by the task force.



94           (9) The task force shall be subject to the provisions of the  
95 Open Meetings Act as provided in Section 25-41-5. The task force  
96 shall be subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act as  
97 provided in Section 25-61-5.

98           (10) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2022.

99           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
100 and after its passage.

