

By: Senator(s) Wiggins, McCaughn, Branning,
Suber, Parker, England, Hill

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2621
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A "TASK FORCE TO STUDY MISSISSIPPI'S LAWS
2 REGARDING THE AWARDING AND CALCULATING OF CHILD SUPPORT, ALIMONY
3 AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS IN DOMESTIC LAW"; TO PRESCRIBE THE
4 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE AND PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION; TO
5 PROVIDE FOR A REPORT BY THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established the "Task Force
8 to Study Mississippi's Laws Regarding the Awarding and Calculating
9 of Child Support, Alimony and Other Related Matters in Domestic
10 Law" to develop a recommendation to the Legislature and the
11 Mississippi Supreme Court relative to revising Mississippi's
12 domestic relations laws to reflect current jurisprudence in these
13 areas and to propose legislation and rule changes based upon its
14 recommendation.

15 (2) The members of the Task Force shall be as follows:

16 (a) The Chairmen of the Judiciary A Committees of the
17 Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives;

18 (b) One (1) designee of the Mississippi Supreme Court
19 to be named by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;



20 (c) One (1) designee of the Mississippi Court of
21 Appeals to be named by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;
22 (d) Two (2) sitting Chancellors to be named by the
23 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
24 (e) Two (2) practicing attorneys in the State of
25 Mississippi with expertise in the area of domestic relations, one
26 (1) from each of the federal judicial districts to be named by the
27 Mississippi Bar Association;
28 (f) One (1) practicing attorney who is a general
29 practitioner with expertise in the area of domestic relations and
30 who practices in a firm with five (5) or fewer licensed attorneys
31 to be named by the Mississippi Bar Association;
32 (g) Two (2) practicing guardians ad litem to be named
33 by the Mississippi Bar Association;
34 (h) One (1) practicing or retired attorney with
35 expertise in disability law and domestic law to be named by the
36 Mississippi Bar Association;
37 (i) One (1) designee of the Child Support Unit of the
38 Mississippi Department of Human Services to be named by the
39 executive director of the department;
40 (j) One (1) professor of law with expertise in domestic
41 law to be named by the Dean of the University of Mississippi
42 School of Law; and



43 (k) One (1) professor of law with expertise in domestic
44 law to be named by the Dean of the Mississippi College School of
45 Law.

46 (3) The Task Force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of
47 the effective date of this act, upon the call of the Governor, and
48 shall evaluate the current domestic laws and cases in Mississippi.
49 Specifically the Task Force shall:

50 (a) Review the models used by states to determine the
51 base child support amount due, including the "Income Shares
52 Model," the "Percentage of Income Model" and the "Melson Formula,"
53 which incorporate a self-support reserve for the obligor and take
54 into consideration the health care expenses of the children;

55 (b) Review special provisions for child care expenses,
56 formulas for shared custody, split custody and extraordinary
57 visitation, and deductions for the support of previous and
58 subsequent children;

59 (c) Review the current trends of law regarding
60 "No-Fault Divorce" and make recommendation(s) based on said
61 review;

62 (d) Review the current trends in the imposition and
63 cost of fees for guardian ad litem and related issues on guardians
64 and make recommendation(s) based on said review;

65 (e) Review Senate Bill No. 2220, 2021 Regular Session,
66 and make recommendation(s) based on said review; and



67 (f) Review any other matters related to the above
68 issues or related to domestic law.

69 (4) The Task Force may request the assistance of the
70 University of Mississippi School of Law and the Mississippi
71 College School of Law, the Mississippi Judicial College, the
72 Mississippi Administrative Office of Courts and the proper section
73 of the Mississippi Bar Association, or any other related
74 organization with expertise in domestic relations.

75 (5) The members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair from
76 among the members. The Task Force shall develop and report its
77 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the
78 Legislature and proposed rule changes to the Mississippi Supreme
79 Court on or before December 1, 2021. A quorum of the membership
80 shall be required to approve any final report and recommendation.
81 Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel
82 expense in the same manner as public employees are reimbursed for
83 official duties from any available funds and members of the
84 Legislature shall be reimbursed in the same manner as for
85 attending out-of-session committee meetings.

86 (6) The Mississippi Bar Association and the Mississippi
87 Judicial College shall provide necessary clerical support for the
88 meetings of the Task Force and the preparation of the report.
89 Proposed legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services
90 Offices of the Senate and House as requested.



91 (7) Upon presentation of its report the Task Force shall be
92 dissolved.

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
94 and after July 1, 2021.

