

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2428

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-179-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO CREATE THE DISTRICT OF INNOVATION TASK FORCE OF 2022; TO
 3 PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
 4 ON DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION, INCLUDING WHETHER THE DISTRICTS
 5 ACHIEVED STATE GOALS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE SHALL STUDY
 6 VARIOUS OTHER STATISTICS AND INFORMATION RELATED TO DISTRICTS OF
 7 INNOVATION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; TO
 8 REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO MAKE A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
 9 RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING ANY RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION, TO THE
 10 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND
 11 THE CHAIRS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
 12 REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2022, AT WHICH
 13 TIME THE TASK FORCE WILL BE DISSOLVED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
 16 37-179-5, Mississippi Code of 1972:

17 37-179-5. (1) There is created the "District of Innovation
 18 Task Force of 2022" to study and make recommendations on:

19 (a) The establishment and current operation of the
 20 Districts and Schools of Innovation program, as described in
 21 Section 37-179-1, including information about waivers requested by
 22 public school districts and schools and waivers granted and denied
 23 by the Mississippi Department of Education;



24 (b) Whether Districts and Schools of Innovation in the
25 state have achieved stated goals, including enhanced learning
26 opportunities, innovative instruction, the implementation of
27 rigorous standards, the reduction of achievement gaps, the
28 reduction of student remediation postgraduation and increased
29 student engagement;

30 (c) Whether the specific solutions utilized in
31 Districts and Schools of Innovation, including modified calendar
32 school years, unique curricula or testing, early college and dual
33 enrollment opportunities and the use of technology, to address
34 staffing shortages or enhance in-person classroom learning have
35 been successful in increasing student achievement;

36 (d) Whether modification of general laws or State Board
37 of Education regulation governing the Districts and Schools of
38 Innovation program is necessary to better achieve stated goals of
39 the program;

40 (e) Whether granting waivers to Districts and Schools
41 of Innovation has resulted in meeting the program's stated goals
42 to other public schools and districts statewide; and

43 (f) The effectiveness of the accountability system for
44 elementary and secondary public schools as it applies to measuring
45 the achievement of Districts and Schools of Innovation.

46 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
47 members:



48 (a) The State Superintendent of Public Education or the
49 superintendent's designee;

50 (b) The Director of the Office of Educational
51 Accountability;

52 (c) Two (2) public school superintendents designated by
53 the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents, with at
54 least one (1) from a current District of Innovation;

55 (d) Two (2) public school administrators, other than
56 superintendents, designated by the Mississippi Association of
57 School Administrators, with at least one (1) from a current
58 District or School of Innovation;

59 (e) A public school business administrator designated
60 by the Mississippi Association of School Business Officials;

61 (f) A member of the State Board of Education appointed
62 by the chair of the board; and

63 (g) Three (3) teachers who have been recognized as a
64 Teacher of the Year in their respective public school districts,
65 with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House
66 each appointing one (1) teacher respectively.

67 (3) Appointments shall be made no later than forty-five (45)
68 days after the effective date of this act. The State
69 Superintendent of Education shall convene the members of the task
70 force for an organizational meeting within thirty (30) days after
71 all appointments have been made, at which time the members of the
72 task force shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from its



73 membership. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
74 be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
75 majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum.
76 In the selection of its officers and the adoption of rules,
77 resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the
78 task force shall be required to be recorded in the official
79 minutes of the meeting in which the vote occurred. Meetings of
80 the task force shall be held at the State Department of Education;
81 however, if it is not feasible for the task force to hold an
82 in-person meeting, the task force may convene utilizing an online
83 meeting platform that is accessible for viewing by the public.

84 (4) The State Department of Education shall provide, using
85 existing resources, administrative and clerical support to the
86 task force. The State Superintendent shall designate appropriate
87 staff to assist the task force in carrying out its duties.

88 (5) Subject to appropriation, members of the task force who
89 are not state employees may be compensated at the per diem rate
90 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and reimbursed in accordance with
91 Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the
92 performance of their duties. However, task force members may not
93 incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless previously
94 authorized by vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action
95 must be recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Per diem
96 and expense payments made pursuant to this subsection may be paid
97 from any funds made available to the task force for that purpose.



98 (6) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
99 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the
100 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and
101 the Chairs of the Education Committees of the House of
102 Representatives and Senate on or before November 1, 2022, at which
103 time the task force will be dissolved.

104 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
105 and after July 1, 2022.

