

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1240

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1 **AMEND** by inserting the following language on line 148 and
2 **renumber** subsequent sections accordingly:

3 **SECTION *.** Section 37-7-345, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4 amended as follows:

5 37-7-345. (1) A regional educational service agency (RESA)
6 may be established in a region of the state when twelve (12) or
7 more school districts determine there are benefits and services
8 that can be derived from the collective and collaborative
9 formation of an agency for the purpose of pooling and leveraging
10 resources for the common benefit of students, teachers,
11 administrators and taxpayers. An educational service agency shall
12 be incorporated in the State of Mississippi and organized under
13 the laws of the State of Mississippi as a nonprofit corporation.
14 The educational service agency shall obtain 501(c)(3) status with
15 the Internal Revenue Service.

16 (2) The operation and management of the educational service
17 agency shall be the responsibility of a public advisory board
18 composed of the superintendents of schools or their designees from
19 each participating school district.

20 (3) A board of directors shall be elected on an annual basis
21 from the advisory board to oversee the day-to-day operations of
22 the agency.

23 (4) The executive board shall hire an executive director to
24 serve as the executive agent of the board of the regional
25 educational service agency.

26 (5) The board of directors of a regional educational service
27 agency shall have the authority to establish policies for the
28 regional educational service to determine the programs and
29 services to be provided, to employ staff, to prepare and expend
30 the budget, to provide for financing programs and projects of the
31 regional educational service agency, and to annually evaluate the
32 performance of the agency. The board may purchase, hold, encumber
33 and dispose of real property, in the name of the agency, for use
34 as its office or for any educational service provided by the
35 agency.

36 (6) The educational service agency is authorized and
37 empowered to: develop, manage and provide support services and/or
38 programs as determined by the needs of the local school districts
39 and pre-school programs to prepare students for entry into public
40 schools. Educational service agencies (ESAs) shall:

41 (a) Act primarily as service agencies in providing
42 services and/or programs as identified and requested by member
43 school districts and state agencies such as the Mississippi
44 Department of Education and the Mississippi Department of Human

45 Services (services may include, but are not limited to,
46 professional development, instructional materials, educational
47 technology, curriculum development and alternative educational
48 programs);

49 (b) Provide for economy, efficiency and
50 cost-effectiveness in the cooperative delivery and purchase or
51 lease of educational services, materials and products (services
52 may include, but are not limited to, purchasing cooperatives,
53 insurance cooperatives, business manager services, auditing and
54 accounting services, school safety/risk prevention, and data
55 processing and student records);

56 (c) Provide administrative services (services may
57 include, but are not limited to, communications/public
58 information, employee background checks, grants management,
59 printing/publications and internships);

60 (d) Provide educational services through leadership,
61 research and development in pre-school, elementary and secondary
62 education;

63 (e) Act in a cooperative and supportive role, including
64 contracting, with the Mississippi Department of Education,
65 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi community
66 colleges and other state educational organizations in the
67 development and implementation of long-range plans, strategies and
68 goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities in pre-
69 school, elementary and secondary education; and

70 (f) Serve, when appropriate and as funds become
71 available, as a repository, clearinghouse and administrator of
72 federal, state, local and private funds on behalf of school
73 districts which choose to participate in special programs,
74 projects or grants in order to enhance the quality of education in
75 Mississippi schools.

76 (7) The State Board of Education shall have the authority to
77 contract with and provide funds to regional educational service
78 agencies for any education-related service.

79 **FURTHER, AMEND the title to conform.**

SS36\HB1240A.1J

Eugene S. Clarke
Secretary of the Senate