

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1447

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI TEACHERS' SALARIES TASK
 2 FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE STATE MAY
 3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR TEACHERS' SALARIES IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AND
 4 MAINTAIN SALARIES AT THE SOUTHEASTERN AVERAGE; TO PRESCRIBE THE
 5 MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO MAKE A
 6 REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE BY
 7 DECEMBER 1, 2023; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Teachers'
 10 Salaries Task Force to study and make recommendations on funding
 11 an increase in teachers' salaries so that the average salary of
 12 Mississippi teachers consistently equals the average salary of
 13 teachers in the southeastern states, as determined annually by the
 14 Southern Regional Education Board. More specifically, the task
 15 force shall analyze teacher salary information from Mississippi
 16 and the southeastern states, along with fiscal data identifying
 17 existing and prospective state revenue streams that can be
 18 dedicated to teachers' salaries, to determine:

19 (a) The amount of funds necessary to initially achieve
 20 the southeastern average teacher's salary;



21 (b) Projected amounts necessary to maintain an average
22 salary of Mississippi teachers equal to the southeastern average;
23 and

24 (c) Realistic existing and potential new sources of
25 recurring state revenue, and how to generate sufficient funding
26 through those sources, to guarantee the existence of a dedicated
27 stream of funds necessary to reach, and then maintain, an average
28 teacher's salary in Mississippi equal to the southeastern average
29 teacher's salary.

30 (2) The task force shall be composed of five (5) members, as
31 follows:

32 (a) The State Economist;

33 (b) The Chair of the State Board of Education;

34 (c) The President of the Mississippi Economic Council;

35 (d) The Commissioner of Revenue or a representative of
36 the Department of Revenue appointed by the commissioner; and

37 (e) A representative of the Mississippi State
38 Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of
39 Colored People (NAACP) appointed by the president of the
40 conference.

41 (3) No later than thirty (30) days after the effective date
42 of this act, the task force shall convene and organize by
43 selecting from its membership a chair and a vice chair. The vice
44 chair also will serve as secretary and be responsible for keeping
45 all records of the task force. A majority of the members of the



46 task force constitutes a quorum. In the selection of its officers
47 and the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative
48 vote of a majority of the task force is required. All members
49 must be notified in writing of all meetings, and those notices
50 must be mailed or provided through electronic communications at
51 least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to
52 be held. Meetings of the task force will be held at the Office of
53 the State Economist at the University Research Center; however, if
54 it is not feasible for the task force to hold an in-person
55 meeting, the task force may convene utilizing an online meeting
56 platform that is accessible for viewing by the public.

57 (4) The task force is assigned to the Office of the State
58 Economist for administrative purposes only. The State Economist
59 shall designate professional and clerical staff to assist the task
60 force.

61 (5) Subject to the availability of funding, members of the
62 task force who are not state employees may be compensated at the
63 per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and reimbursed in
64 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
65 incurred in the performance of their duties. However, task force
66 members may not incur per diem, travel or other expenses unless
67 previously authorized by vote, at a meeting of the task force,
68 which action must be recorded in the official minutes of the
69 meeting. Per diem and expense payments made pursuant to this



70 subsection may be paid from any funds made available to the task
71 force for that purpose.

72 (6) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
73 recommendations, including any recommended legislation, to the
74 Legislature before December 1, 2023, at which time the task force
75 will be dissolved.

76 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after its passage.

