

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2601

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-21-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PRESCRIBE ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR THE STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS WHO ARE
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-21-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-21-53. (1) The State Early Childhood Advisory Council
10 (SECAC), located in the Office of the Governor, * * * shall have
11 the following duties and responsibilities:

12 (a) Ensuring coordination among the various agencies
13 and programs serving preschool children in order to leverage
14 resources, align processes, reduce duplication of effort, and
15 strengthen the quality of all state and federally funded programs
16 serving preschool-age children;

17 (b) Coordinating for the various agencies and
18 state-funded programs serving preschool children and their
19 families in the State of Mississippi;



20 (c) Coordinating paperwork, monitoring visits and
21 evaluating early education providers when state or federally
22 funded programs overlap to eliminate duplication of effort.

23 Alignment tasks may include:

24 (i) Jointly conducting monitoring or evaluation
25 visits;

26 (ii) Developing and using common forms of other
27 paperwork;

28 (iii) Sharing compliance or other data across
29 agencies to reduce the number of agencies seeking similar
30 information;

31 (d) Coordinating policy recommendation for Early
32 Learning Collaboratives;

33 (e) Developing standards for core competency
34 development for teachers through professional continuing
35 education, in consultation with the schools of education in the
36 university system for articulation purposes;

37 (f) To assist the State Department of Education with
38 the implementation of the Early Learning Collaborative Act of
39 2013 * * *;

40 (* * *g) To serve as the designated council for early
41 childhood education and care pursuant to federal Public Law
42 110-134 * * *;

43 (* * *h) To carry out any responsibilities assigned to
44 SECAC by the Governor and/or by applicable federal law.



45 (2) The membership of the State Early Childhood Advisory
46 Council (SECAC) in accordance with Public Law 110-134, shall
47 include the following members to be appointed by the Governor:

48 (a) A representative of the Mississippi Department of
49 Human Services;

50 (b) A representative of the Mississippi Department of
51 Education;

52 (c) A representative of local educational agencies;

53 (d) A representative of Mississippi Institutions of
54 Higher Education;

55 (e) A representative of local providers of early
56 childhood education and care services from each congressional
57 district;

58 (f) A representative from Head Start agencies located
59 in the state, including Indian Head Start programs and migrant and
60 seasonal Head Start programs as available;

61 (g) The State Director of Head Start Collaboration;

62 (h) The Part C Coordinator and/or the Section 619
63 Coordinator of programs under the Individuals with Disabilities
64 Education Act (20 USC 1419, 1431 et seq.);

65 (i) A representative of the Mississippi Department of
66 Health;

67 (j) A representative of the Mississippi Department of
68 Mental Health; * * *



69 (k) A representative of the Mississippi Senate
70 recommended by the Lieutenant Governor;

71 (l) A representative of the Mississippi House of
72 Representatives recommended by the Speaker; and

73 (* * *m) Representatives of other entities deemed
74 relevant by the Governor.

75 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
76 and after July 1, 2023.

