

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1447  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC VICTORIES THROUGH  
2 EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY (SAVED) STUDY  
3 COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE THE  
4 FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND ADMINISTERING MODEL RURAL  
5 EDUCATION SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY AND  
6 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE  
7 BOARD OF EDUCATION, TO SERVE STUDENTS IN GRADES K-12 WITHIN THE  
8 EIGHTEEN COUNTIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA ENROLLED IN "D" AND "F"  
9 SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS; TO RECONSTITUTE THE EARLY INTERVENTION TASK  
10 FORCE WITH A GOAL TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE AGENCY  
11 COORDINATING PART C OF IDEA TO DESIGN A NEW SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL  
12 AND MAKE CHANGES TO THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM; TO SET THE  
13 TASK FORCE'S DUTIES; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO PREPARE A FINAL  
14 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; TO REQUIRE THE STATE AGENCY  
15 COORDINATING PART C OF IDEA TO PREPARE AND DELIVER A REPORT THAT  
16 PROVIDES FOR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS; TO DISSOLVE THE TASK FORCE UPON  
17 PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Strengthening Academic  
20 Victories through Educational Development (SAVED) Study Committee  
21 to determine the feasibility of establishing and administering  
22 model rural education school programs, to be facilitated by and  
23 located at Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State  
24 University, in conjunction with the State Board of Education, to  
25 serve students in grades K-12 within the eighteen (18) counties of



26 the Delta region of the state who are enrolled in failing schools  
27 or failing school districts as designated by the State Board of  
28 Education with the assignment of a "D" or "F" school  
29 accountability rating.

30 The committee shall, at a minimum, study and report to the  
31 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature the following:

32 (a) The identification of facilities on the campuses of  
33 Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University  
34 that would be suitable for serving as the educational facilities  
35 for the program;

36 (b) The initial start-up costs for implementation of  
37 the program based on projected student enrollment, including  
38 capital improvement costs necessary to repair, renovate, refurbish  
39 and equip any facility identified for use as an educational  
40 facility;

41 (c) Long term goals and objectives;

42 (d) Approach to recruiting students in affected school  
43 districts in designated counties; and

44 (e) Curriculum develop and course offering for students  
45 at every grade level of instruction.

46 (2) The Study Committee shall be composed of the following  
47 nine (9) members:

48 (a) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the  
49 House, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the House  
50 Education Committee;



51 (b) Two (2) members appointed by the Lieutenant  
52 Governor, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the Senate  
53 Education Committee;

54 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor from  
55 the state at large;

56 (d) The President of Delta State University; and

57 (e) The President of Mississippi Valley State  
58 University.

59 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after  
60 the effective date of this act. The committee shall hold its  
61 first meeting before August 1, 2024. The Presidents of Delta  
62 State University and Mississippi Valley State University shall  
63 serve as co-chairmen of the Study Committee.

64 (4) A majority of the members of the committee shall  
65 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of the rules, resolutions  
66 and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
67 shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of  
68 all meetings, such notices shall be mailed at least five (5) days  
69 before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

70 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any  
71 department, division, board, bureau, committee or agency of the  
72 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request  
73 of any member of the committee, provide such facilities,  
74 assistance, information and data as will enable the committee to  
75 properly carry out its duties.



76           SECTION 2. (1) To complete the work it commenced in 2023,  
77 the Early Intervention Task Force created by Chapter 487, Laws of  
78 2023, and dissolved December 1, 2023, is hereby reconstituted to  
79 serve in an advisory capacity to assist the state agency  
80 coordinating Part C of IDEA in implementing a new service delivery  
81 model. The goal of the task force shall be to collaborate with  
82 the state agency coordinating Part C of IDEA to design a new  
83 service delivery model and make changes to the Early Intervention  
84 Program.

85           (2) The members of the task force shall be as follows:

86                   (a) The Chairmen of the Education Committees of the  
87 Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives,  
88 or his or her designee from their respective committee membership;

89                   (b) The Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees of  
90 the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of  
91 Representatives, or his or her designee from their respective  
92 committee membership;

93                   (c) The Chairmen of the Public Health Committees of the  
94 Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives,  
95 or his or her designee from their respective committee membership;

96                   (d) One (1) member of the Mississippi State Senate, to  
97 be named by the Lieutenant Governor; and one (1) member of the  
98 Mississippi House of Representatives, to be named by the Speaker  
99 of the House of Representatives, who are interested in early  
100 intervention issues;



101 (e) The State Health Officer of the Mississippi  
102 Department of Health or a designated deputy;

103 (f) One (1) designee who is a direct service provider  
104 in the First Steps Early Intervention Program, to be named by the  
105 State Health Officer;

106 (g) One (1) faculty member from the Social Science  
107 Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State University, to be  
108 named by the Director of the SSRC;

109 (h) One (1) developmental-behavioral pediatrician with  
110 expertise in early childhood systems building, to be named by the  
111 Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center;

112 (i) One (1) general pediatrician, to be named by the  
113 Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

114 (j) One (1) clinical psychologist with expertise in  
115 social-emotional health of infants and toddlers, to be named by  
116 the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical  
117 Center;

118 (k) One (1) school psychologist employed by a school  
119 district, to be named by the Mississippi Association of  
120 Psychologists in the Schools;

121 (l) One (1) early interventionist/development  
122 therapist, to be named by the State Health Officer;

123 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Early  
124 Learning Alliance;



125           (n) One (1) family advocacy representative to be  
126 appointed by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Coalition  
127 for Citizens with Disabilities;

128           (o) One (1) parent representative with current  
129 experience with early intervention to be appointed by the  
130 Executive Director of the Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with  
131 Disabilities;

132           (p) One (1) faculty member from the College of Health  
133 Sciences at Jackson State University, to be named by the president  
134 of such university;

135           (q) One (1) pediatrician, to be named by the  
136 Mississippi Region of the National Medical Association;

137           (r) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid,  
138 Office of the Governor, or the executive director's designee; and

139           (s) The Director of the State Department of Education's  
140 Early Childhood Education Office, or such director's designee.

141           (3) A faculty member from each of the universities within  
142 the institutions of higher learning with an early childhood  
143 development program or early intervention program may be named by  
144 the president of each university to assist the task force. In  
145 addition, the Executive Director of the Center for Mississippi  
146 Health Policy shall aid the task force.

147           (4) The task force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of  
148 the effective date of this act and shall commence its  
149 responsibilities set out in subsection (5) of this section.



150 (5) Specifically, in collaboration with the state agency  
151 coordinating Part C of IDEA, the task force shall:

152 (a) Review billing and reimbursement processes and  
153 rates for early intervention services in Mississippi and in other  
154 states, to ensure a timely receipt of payment to providers. In  
155 performing this function, a recommendation shall be made to the  
156 Legislature by January 1, 2025, on a more efficient system for  
157 providing compensation to providers and for billing and collecting  
158 from third-party payors;

159 (b) Evaluate early intervention service delivery  
160 models, including a hub or hybrid model involving university  
161 participation and determine how this model may impact the training  
162 of students and delivery of services to members of the eligible  
163 population. In performing this function, a recommendation shall  
164 be made to the Legislature that will offer a service delivery  
165 structure to enhance the efficient and effective delivery of  
166 quality services to the eligible population; and

167 (c) Review any other matters related to the above  
168 issues or related to early intervention services.

169 (6) The state agency coordinating Part C of IDEA and the  
170 task force may request the assistance of the Social Science  
171 Research Center at Mississippi State University, the Mississippi  
172 Early Learning Alliance or any other related entity or  
173 organization with expertise in early intervention services.



174 (7) The members of the task force shall elect a chair from  
175 among the members. The task force shall develop and report its  
176 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the  
177 Legislature in response to the proposal of the state agency  
178 coordinating Part C of IDEA to make changes to the service  
179 delivery structure for the program and changes to the way the  
180 state pays service providers and recoups payments from third-party  
181 payors, which shall be due to the task force and Legislature by  
182 December 1, 2024. A quorum of the membership shall be required to  
183 approve any final report and recommendation. Members of the task  
184 force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expense in the same  
185 manner as public employees are reimbursed for official duties from  
186 any available funds and members of the Legislature shall be  
187 reimbursed in the same manner as for attending out-of-session  
188 committee meetings.

189 (8) The Joint Legislative Committee on Performance  
190 Evaluation and Expenditure Review shall provide necessary clerical  
191 support for the meetings of the task force and research support as  
192 needed for the preparation of the report. Proposed legislation  
193 shall be prepared by the Legislative Services Offices of the  
194 Senate and House as requested.

195 (9) The task force shall be dissolved upon presentation of  
196 its report.

197 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
198 and after July 1, 2024.

