

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education;
Appropriations A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1449

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE
2 FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND ADMINISTERING A UNIVERSAL
3 EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNTS (ESA) PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS IN
4 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12, FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL
5 SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE EXPENSES RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES,
6 INSTRUCTION AND NEEDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE STUDY
7 COMMITTEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a study committee to
10 determine the feasibility of establishing and administering a
11 universal educational scholarship accounts (ESA) program for
12 students in kindergarten through Grade 12, for purposes of
13 providing financial support for eligible expenses related to
14 educational services, instruction and needs.

15 The committee shall, at a minimum, study and report to the
16 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature the following:

17 (a) The viability of an ESA system that is inclusive of
18 all students;



19 (b) The costs for implementation of a universal ESA
20 program based on initial enrollment and projected enrollment of
21 students into the program;

22 (c) The impact of a universal ESA program on the
23 existing adequate education program funding or any newly developed
24 equitable funding formula; and

25 (d) Any potential constitutional or legal implications
26 created by the establishment of a universal ESA program.

27 (2) The Study Committee shall be composed of the following
28 seven (7) members:

29 (a) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the
30 House, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the House
31 Education Committee;

32 (b) Two (2) members appointed by the Lieutenant
33 Governor, one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the Senate
34 Education Committee; and

35 (c) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor from
36 the state at large, as follows:

37 (i) One (1) of whom shall be a superintendent of a
38 public school district;

39 (ii) One (1) of whom shall be a representative of
40 a private school under the governing authority of the Mississippi
41 Association of Independent Schools; and

42 (iii) One (1) of whom shall be a representative of
43 the state's business community.



44 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
45 the effective date of this act. The committee shall hold its
46 first meeting before August 1, 2024, with the date, time and
47 location of the meeting to be designated by the Governor. At that
48 first meeting, the committee shall elect an individual to serve as
49 chairman of the study committee. A majority of the members of the
50 committee shall constitute a quorum. In the adoption of the
51 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
52 of the members shall be required. All members shall be notified
53 in writing of all meetings, such notices shall be mailed at least
54 five (5) days before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

55 (4) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation
56 for their service on the task force, but may receive reimbursement
57 for mileage and actual expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41,
58 Mississippi Code of 1972, to the extent that funds are available
59 for that purpose.

60 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
61 department, division, board, bureau, committee or agency of the
62 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request
63 of any member of the committee, provide such facilities,
64 assistance, information and data as will enable the committee to
65 properly carry out its duties.

66 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2024.

