

By: Senator(s) Barrett

To: Labor

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2593

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A "TASK FORCE TO STUDY MISSISSIPPI'S
2 LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES"; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF
3 THE TASK FORCE AND PROVIDE FOR ITS ORGANIZATION; TO PROVIDE FOR A
4 REPORT BY THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established the "Task Force
7 to Study Mississippi's Labor Force Participation Rates" to develop
8 a recommendation to the Legislature relative to increasing
9 Mississippi's labor force participation rates and to propose
10 legislation and rule changes based upon its recommendation.

11 (2) The members of the Task Force shall be as follows:

12 (a) The Chairman of the Labor Committee of the
13 Mississippi Senate;

14 (b) The Chairmen of the Economic and Workforce
15 Development Committees of the Mississippi Senate and the
16 Mississippi House of Representatives;

17 (c) One (1) member of the Mississippi State Senate, to
18 be named by the Lieutenant Governor; and one (1) member of the
19 Mississippi House of Representatives, to be named by the Speaker



20 of the House of Representatives, who are interested in labor force
21 participation rates;

22 (d) The Director of the Mississippi Department of
23 Employment Security or a designated deputy;

24 (e) The Chairman of the State Workforce Investment
25 Board or a designated deputy;

26 (f) The Executive Director of the Office of Workforce
27 Development or a designated deputy;

28 (g) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
29 Development Authority or a designated deputy;

30 (h) One (1) designee to be chosen by the Chair of the
31 Mississippi Economic Council;

32 (i) One (1) faculty member from a technical college, to
33 be named by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Community
34 College Board;

35 (j) One (1) small business owner, to be named by the
36 Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority;

37 (k) One (1) minority business owner, to be named by the
38 Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority; and

39 (l) One (1) Chief Executive Officer of a corporation
40 domiciled in and doing business in Mississippi, to be named by the
41 Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority.

42 (3) The Task Force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of
43 the effective date of this act, upon the call of the Governor, and



44 shall evaluate the current labor force participation rates in
45 Mississippi. Specifically, the Task Force shall:

46 (a) Review the data used by the Bureau of Labor
47 Statistics to compare Mississippi's labor force participation rate
48 to that of other states;

49 (b) Consider specific obstacles faced by individuals in
50 Mississippi's labor force;

51 (c) Review the current trends in efforts to increase
52 labor force participation rates; and

53 (d) Review any other matters related to the above
54 issues or related to increasing labor force participation in
55 Mississippi.

56 (4) The Task force may request the assistance of any related
57 organization with expertise in labor force participation rates.

58 (5) The members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair from
59 among the members. The Task Force shall develop and report its
60 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the
61 Legislature on or before December 1, 2024. A quorum of the
62 membership shall be required to approve any final report and
63 recommendation. Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for
64 necessary travel expense in the same manner as public employees
65 are reimbursed for official duties from any available funds and
66 members of the Legislature shall be reimbursed in the same manner
67 as for attending out-of-session committee meetings.



68 (6) The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, using
69 existing resources, shall provide necessary clerical support for
70 the meetings of the Task Force and the preparation of the report.
71 Proposed legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services
72 Offices of the Senate and House as requested.

73 (7) Upon presentation of its report the Task Force shall be
74 dissolved.

75 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
76 and after July 1, 2024.

