

By: Senator(s) Barrett

To: Labor

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 the Delta Technical  
33 College, to be named by the president of the college;

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

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

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

41 (3) The Task Force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of  
42 the effective date of this act, upon the call of the Governor, and  
43 shall evaluate the current labor force participation rates in  
44 Mississippi. Specifically, the Task Force shall:



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

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

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

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

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

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

67 (6) The Mississippi Department of Employment Security, using  
68 existing resources, shall provide necessary clerical support for  
69 the meetings of the Task Force and the preparation of the report.



70 Proposed legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services  
71 Offices of the Senate and House as requested.

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

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

