

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Cmte Sub for House Bill No. 1447

BY: Representatives Owen, Roberson

1 **Amend** after line 67, by inserting the following:

2 "**SECTION 2.** (1) To complete the work it commenced in 2023,
3 the Early Intervention Task Force created by Chapter 487, Laws of
4 2023, and dissolved December 1, 2023, is hereby reconstituted to
5 serve in an advisory capacity to assist the state agency
6 coordinating Part C of IDEA in implementing a new service delivery
7 model. The goal of the task force shall be to collaborate with
8 the state agency coordinating Part C of IDEA to design a new
9 service delivery model and make changes to the Early Intervention
10 Program.

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



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

15 (b) The Chairmen of the Appropriations Committees of
16 the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of
17 Representatives, or his or her designee from their respective
18 committee membership;

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

22 (d) One (1) member of the Mississippi State Senate, to
23 be named by the Lieutenant Governor; and one (1) member of the
24 Mississippi House of Representatives, to be named by the Speaker
25 of the House of Representatives, who are interested in early
26 intervention issues;

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

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

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

35 (h) One (1) developmental-behavioral pediatrician with
36 expertise in early childhood systems building, to be named by the



37 Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center;

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

40 (j) One (1) clinical psychologist with expertise in
41 social-emotional health of infants and toddlers, to be named by
42 the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical
43 Center;

44 (k) One (1) school psychologist employed by a school
45 district, to be named by the Mississippi Association of
46 Psychologists in the Schools;

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

49 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Early
50 Learning Alliance;

51 (n) One (1) family advocacy representative to be
52 appointed by the Executive Director of the Mississippi Coalition
53 for Citizens with Disabilities;

54 (o) One (1) parent representative with current
55 experience with early intervention to be appointed by the
56 Executive Director of the Mississippi Coalition for Citizens with
57 Disabilities;

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



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

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

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

67 (3) A faculty member from each of the universities within
68 the institutions of higher learning with an early childhood
69 development program or early intervention program may be named by
70 the president of each university to assist the task force. In
71 addition, the Executive Director of the Center for Mississippi
72 Health Policy shall aid the task force.

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

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

78 (a) Review billing and reimbursement processes and
79 rates for early intervention services in Mississippi and in other
80 states, to ensure a timely receipt of payment to providers. In
81 performing this function, a recommendation shall be made to the
82 Legislature by January 1, 2025, on a more efficient system for
83 providing compensation to providers and for billing and collecting
84 from third-party payors;



85 (b) Evaluate early intervention service delivery
86 models, including a hub or hybrid model involving university
87 participation and determine how this model may impact the training
88 of students and delivery of services to members of the eligible
89 population. In performing this function, a recommendation shall
90 be made to the Legislature that will offer a service delivery
91 structure to enhance the efficient and effective delivery of
92 quality services to the eligible population; and

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

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

100 (7) The members of the task force shall elect a chair from
101 among the members. The task force shall develop and report its
102 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the
103 Legislature in response to the proposal of the state agency
104 coordinating Part C of IDEA to make changes to the service
105 delivery structure for the program and changes to the way the
106 state pays service providers and recoups payments from third-party
107 payors, which shall be due to the task force and Legislature by
108 December 1, 2024. A quorum of the membership shall be required to
109 approve any final report and recommendation. Members of the task



110 force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expense in the same
111 manner as public employees are reimbursed for official duties from
112 any available funds and members of the Legislature shall be
113 reimbursed in the same manner as for attending out-of-session
114 committee meetings.

115 (8) The Joint Legislative Committee on Performance
116 Evaluation and Expenditure Review shall provide necessary clerical
117 support for the meetings of the task force and research support as
118 needed for the preparation of the report. Proposed legislation
119 shall be prepared by the Legislative Services Offices of the
120 Senate and House as requested.

121 (9) The task force shall be dissolved upon presentation of
122 its report."

123 **Further, amend** on line 68 by striking "2" and inserting in
124 lieu thereof: "3".

125 **Further, amend the title to conform** on line 9, by inserting
126 the following after the semicolon:
127 "TO RECONSTITUTE THE EARLY INTERVENTION TASK FORCE WITH A GOAL TO
128 COLLABORATE WITH THE STATE AGENCY COORDINATING PART C OF IDEA TO
129 DESIGN A NEW SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL AND MAKE CHANGES TO THE EARLY
130 INTERVENTION PROGRAM; TO SET THE TASK FORCE'S DUTIES; TO REQUIRE
131 THE TASK FORCE TO PREPARE A FINAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; TO
132 REQUIRE THE STATE AGENCY COORDINATING PART C OF IDEA TO PREPARE
133 AND DELIVER A REPORT THAT PROVIDES FOR POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS; TO
134 DISSOLVE THE TASK FORCE UPON PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT;".

