

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 2727

BY: Senator(s) Boyd

1 **AMEND by inserting the following below line 134 and**
2 **renumbering the subsequent section:**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



38 Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

124 **FURTHER, AMEND the title to conform.**

