

By: Senator(s) Sparks

To: Economic and Workforce
Development

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2290

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "TASK FORCE TO STUDY WORK FORCE AND
2 SOCIAL SERVICE REFORM AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A ONE DOOR POLICY"; TO
3 LIST THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS AND
4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO ALLOW THE TASK FORCE TO
5 REQUEST THE HELP OF THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; TO
6 REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO DRAFT A REPORT AND PRESENT IT TO THE
7 LEGISLATURE; TO PROVIDE FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE TASK FORCE; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established the "Task Force
11 to Study Work Force and Social Service Reform and Implementation
12 of a One Door Policy" to develop a recommendation to the
13 Legislature relative to increasing the labor force participation
14 rate in the State of Mississippi, as well as raising the earning
15 capacity of working Mississippians through training and education
16 for high wage, high demand, priority sector jobs in the state.

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

18 (a) The Executive Director of the Office of Workforce
19 Development (Accelerate MS), or his or her designee;

20 (b) The Chairman of the Economic and Workforce
21 Development Committee of the Mississippi State Senate and the



Chairman of the Workforce Development Committee of the House of Representatives, or their designees;

(c) Two appointments from the Governor, two (2) appointments from the Lieutenant Governor, two (2) appointments from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with consideration given to individuals who represent underserved or disadvantaged communities;

(d) The State Superintendent of the Mississippi Department of Education, or his or her designee; and

(e) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, or his or her designee.

(3) The task force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of the act, and shall review and research the following issues relating to labor force participation rate and earning capacity in Mississippi including:

(a) Unfilled jobs in the state of Mississippi, record low unemployment rate and yet a lagging labor force participation rate under fifty-eight percent (58)% as measured by the United States Bureau of Labor and Statistics;

(b) Modernization of Mississippi's economy with an increasing need to access high-quality education and training programs across avenues from K-12, community college, universities, private sector and adult education opportunities;

(c) Technology utilization for state government agencies to share information and have a unified vision between



47 agencies for a one-door access for state resources and services to
48 individuals of the state seeking employment, government
49 assistance, or education to pursue higher per capita employment;

50 (d) Investigate a centralized location, including a
51 clearing house of available public assistance programs, how to
52 access it and eligibility requirements;

53 (e) How reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and
54 Opportunity Act (WIOA) by the United States Congress may create
55 new opportunities to grant states to pilot comprehensive
56 innovation demonstration programs; and

57 (f) An integrated system of workforce and social
58 services may more effectively serve Mississippians in escaping
59 poverty through targeted supports and work to achieve dignity and
60 self-sufficiency and strengthen Mississippi's economy.

61 (4) The task force may request assistance from the Office of
62 Workforce Development (Accelerate MS), Department of Human
63 Services, the Mississippi Department of Employment Services,
64 Mississippi Rehabilitation Services, NSPARC and other state
65 agencies with expertise in employment and public assistance in the
66 State of Mississippi.

67 (5) The Chairman of the Senate Economic and Workforce
68 Development Committee and the Chairman of the House Committee on
69 Workforce Development shall serve as co-chairmen of the task
70 force. The task force shall develop and report its findings and
71 recommendations for proposed legislation to the Legislature on or



72 before December 1, 2025. A quorum of the membership shall be
73 required to approve any final report and recommendation. Members
74 of the task force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expense
75 in the same manner as public employees are reimbursed for official
76 duties from any available funds, and members of the Legislature
77 shall be reimbursed in the same manner as for attending
78 out-of-session committee meetings.

79 (6) The Office of Workforce Development (Accelerate MS)
80 shall provide necessary clerical assistance for meetings of the
81 task force and the preparation of the report. Proposed
82 legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services Offices
83 of the Senate and House as requested.

84 (7) The task force shall be dissolved upon presentation of
85 its report.

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after its passage, or effective date of the reauthorized
88 federal Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act, should that act
89 create new opportunities for pilot comprehensive innovation
90 demonstration programs under which Mississippi qualifies,
91 whichever date is soonest.

