

By: Senator(s) Sparks

To: Economic and Workforce  
Development

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 Chairman  
21 of the Mississippi State Senate and House of Representatives, or  
22 their designees;

23 (c) Two appointments from the Governor, two (2)  
24 appointments from the Lieutenant Governor, two (2) appointments  
25 from the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

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

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

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

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

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

42 (c) Technology utilization for state government  
43 agencies to share information and have a unified vision between  
44 agencies for a one door access for state resources and services to



45 individuals of the state seeking employment, government  
46 assistance, or education to pursue higher per capita employment;

47 (d) Investigate a centralized location, including a  
48 clearing house of available public assistance programs, how to  
49 access and eligibility requirements;

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

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

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

64 (5) The members of the task force shall elect a chair from  
65 among the members. The task force shall develop and report its  
66 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the  
67 Legislature on or before December 1, 2024. A quorum of the  
68 membership shall be required to approve any final report and  
69 recommendation. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for



70 necessary travel expense in the same manner as public employees  
71 are reimbursed for official duties from any available funds, and  
72 members of the Legislature shall be reimbursed in the same manner  
73 as for attending out-of-session committee meetings.

74 (6) The Office of Workforce Development (Accelerate MS)  
75 shall provide necessary clerical assistance for meetings of the  
76 task force and the preparation of the report. Proposed  
77 legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services Offices  
78 of the Senate and House as requested.

79 (7) The task force shall be dissolved upon presentation of  
80 its report.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
82 and after July 1, 2025.

