

By: Senator(s) Sparks

To: Economic and Workforce
Development

SENATE BILL NO. 2290
(As Passed the Senate)

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 (2) 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;

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

(f) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, 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;



47 (c) Technology utilization for state government
48 agencies to share information and have a unified vision between
49 agencies for a one-door access for state resources and services to
50 individuals of the state seeking employment, government
51 assistance, or education to pursue higher per capita employment;

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

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

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

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

69 (5) The Chairman of the Senate Economic and Workforce
70 Development Committee and the Chairman of the House Committee on
71 Workforce Development shall serve as co-chairmen of the task



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

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

86 (7) The task force shall be dissolved upon presentation of
87 its report.

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

