

**\*\*\*Pending\*\*\***

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill NO. 2618**

**By Representative(s) Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

8        SECTION 1.    (1)    The Legislature finds that:

9                    (a)    Studies show that children who experience quality  
10    comprehensive early childhood services have higher academic and  
11    social ratings by their kindergarten teachers and better  
12    kindergarten attendance than children who do not;

13                   (b)    Participation in quality comprehensive early  
14    childhood services helps children develop social and pre-academic  
15    skills that will help them succeed in kindergarten and throughout  
16    their educational experiences;

17                   (c)    Other southeastern states have implemented  
18    pre-kindergarten programs similar to the Georgia Pre-Kindergarten  
19    Program for four-year-old children, emphasizing growth in language  
20    and literacy, math concepts, science, arts, physical development,  
21    and personal and social competence.

22                   (2)    There is hereby created a Task Force to Study the  
23    Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Early Childhood  
24    Services in Mississippi. The task force shall make a report of  
25    its findings and recommendations to the Legislature at least  
26    thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the 2000 Regular  
27    Session of the Legislature for implementation in the 2000-2001  
28    school year.

29           (3) The task force shall be composed of twenty-four (24)  
30 members as follows:

31           (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education and  
32 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the Senate  
33 appointed by the President of the Senate;

34           (b) The Chairmen of the House Education and  
35 Appropriations Committees and two (2) members of the House of  
36 Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

37           (c) A representative of the Governor;

38           (d) The State Superintendent of Education;

39           (e) The Executive Director of the Department of Health,  
40 the state child care licensing agency;

41           (f) The Executive Director of the Department of Human  
42 Services, the state Child Care Development Fund agency;

43           (g) Representatives of the early childhood profession:

44               (i) A Head Start director elected by the  
45 Mississippi Head Start Association;

46               (ii) A representative from a regulated family  
47 child care home network appointed by the Speaker of the House;

48               (iii) A representative from a licensed child care  
49 center appointed by the President of the Senate;

50               (iv) A representative from a public school  
51 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

52               (v) A representative from a private school  
53 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the President of the Senate;

54               (vi) A representative from a half-day church  
55 sponsored pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the  
56 House;

57               (vii) A representative from a university or  
58 college early childhood teacher preparation program appointed by  
59 the President of the Senate;

60               (viii) A representative of a tribal early

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childhood program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(ix) A representative of an early childhood professional organization appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(x) A representative of an advocacy organization appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(h) A parent of a preschool-age child appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(i) A parent of a preschool-age child with special needs appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(4) In the event the Chairman of the Senate or House Education or Appropriations Committees is unable to attend any meeting of the task force, the vice-chairman of the respective committee shall be authorized to attend and vote at such meeting.

Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after passage of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the State Superintendent of Education, the task force shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice-chairmen. The vice-chairmen shall also serve as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the task force shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date on which a meeting is to be held.

(5) Members of the task force who are not legislators shall be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be reimbursed in accordance with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for mileage and

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93 actual expense incurred in the performance of their duties. Any  
94 member who is also a state employee shall not be eligible to  
95 receive per diem compensation. No task force member may incur per  
96 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by  
97 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be  
98 recorded in the official minutes of said meeting. Legislative  
99 members of the committee shall be paid from the contingent expense  
100 funds of their respective houses in the same amounts as provided  
101 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session;  
102 however, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task  
103 force will be paid while the Legislature is in session.  
104 Non-legislative members shall be paid from any funds made  
105 available to the task force for that purpose.

106 (6) Funding for the task force may be provided from any  
107 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature to the State  
108 Department of Education for that purpose.

109 (7) Upon presentation of its report to the 2000 Regular  
110 Session, the task force shall be dissolved.

111 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
112 and after its passage.