

By: Representatives Eads, Whittington

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1345

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI EDUCATION PROGRESS BOARD; TO
2 CHARGE THE BOARD WITH THE DUTY OF ANNUALLY ASSESSING EDUCATIONAL
3 PROGRESS AT ALL LEVELS AND TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY
4 THE LEGISLATURE AND THE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES AND
5 INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE
6 BOARD; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD SHALL MAKE A REPORT OF ITS WORK
7 TO THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2002; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds that because the quality of
11 education has a profound impact upon the social, cultural and
12 economic enhancement of the people of Mississippi, the following
13 are some of the educational goals of the state:

14 (a) That the students, parents, general citizenry,
15 local schoolteachers and administrators, local governments, local
16 school boards, colleges, universities and state government shall
17 share the responsibility for the quality of education delivered
18 through the educational systems in the State of Mississippi:

19 (i) To produce a functionally literate school
20 population;

21 (ii) To ensure that all students master the most
22 essential parts of a basic education;

23 (iii) To encourage the common efforts of students,
24 parents, teachers, administrators and business and professional
25 leaders for the establishment of specific goals for performance;

26 (iv) To improve instructional and administrative
27 quality, to relate the education community to other policymakers
28 and to achieve increased competency among students, teachers and
29 administrators;



30 (b) That emphasis shall be placed upon early mastery of
31 the skills necessary to succeed in school and that quality,
32 performance-based early childhood education programs shall be
33 considered an essential element of a comprehensive education
34 system;

35 (c) That the children of this state shall receive a
36 period of instruction sufficient to train each in the basic
37 educational skills adequate for the student to take his or her
38 place in society and make a contribution as a citizen of this
39 state, and that all children shall be encouraged to continue their
40 education until they have completed high school;

41 (d) That the high school students of this state shall
42 receive the opportunity and encouragement to complete a college
43 preparation curriculum; and

44 (e) That the citizenry of this state shall have access
45 to programs in adult lifelong learning, worker training and
46 professional development activities.

47 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Education
48 Progress Board, the duties of which shall be to assess annually
49 educational progress at all levels and specifically to determine
50 whether the appropriate agencies, institutions or entities of the
51 state:

52 (a) Launched a broad public campaign directed to all
53 segments of the population underscoring the importance of high
54 school completion, advanced education and adult lifelong learning;

55 (b) Developed ways to expand and improve
56 prekindergarten programs for children in all areas of the state by
57 establishing pilot projects in selected school districts, using
58 college-student volunteers and creating partnerships among the
59 state's schools, colleges, universities, social service agencies
60 and providers;

61 (c) Made a comprehensive study of those school
62 districts ranking lowest on the state's accreditation measures and



63 created guidelines for enhancing partnerships between those school
64 districts and the teaching programs in the colleges and
65 universities;

66 (d) Developed a business plan to strengthen teacher
67 supply and quality in all academic areas;

68 (e) Researched ways to obtain federal funds to help
69 increase advanced placement course offerings throughout the state;

70 (f) Designed methods to develop better preservice and
71 inservice training for school principals through a coordinated
72 approach among the institutions of higher learning, the community
73 colleges and the State Department of Education;

74 (g) Facilitated partnerships among college and
75 university faculty and school administrators and teachers to
76 develop a school-based strategic research plan to address real
77 needs in the classroom;

78 (h) Developed a plan to promote the college prep
79 curriculum and to encourage all high school students to complete
80 it;

81 (i) Conducted a study of the state's human resource
82 needs and reshaped educational offerings in adult lifelong
83 learning, worker training and professional development; and

84 (j) Reviewed possibilities of creating proactive
85 partnerships with business and industry that will enable the
86 state's colleges and universities to become full partners in
87 economic development.

88 (2) The Mississippi Education Progress Board shall be
89 composed of fifteen (15) members as follows:

90 (a) The Governor;

91 (b) The Lieutenant Governor;

92 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;

93 (d) The Executive Director of Mississippi Economic
94 Council;



95 (e) The chairman and one (1) other member of the State
96 Board of Education;

97 (f) The chairman and two (2) other members of the State
98 Board for Community and Junior Colleges;

99 (g) The three (3) executives of the Institutions of
100 Higher Learning;

101 (h) Three (3) members at large, one (1) of whom shall
102 be appointed by the Governor, one (1) of whom shall be appointed
103 by the Lieutenant Governor and one (1) of whom shall be appointed
104 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

105 (3) At its first meeting, the board shall elect a chairman
106 and vice chairman from its membership and shall adopt rules for
107 transacting its business and keeping records. Members of the
108 board shall receive a per diem in the amount provided in Section
109 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business of the board.
110 Members of the board shall receive reimbursement for travel
111 expenses incurred while engaged in official business of the board
112 in accordance with Section 25-3-41, and the Lieutenant Governor
113 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall receive the
114 expense allowance provided for in Section 5-1-47.

115 (4) Before December 1, 2002, the board shall make a report
116 of its work and recommendations for action, and it shall submit a
117 copy of the report to the Legislature.

118 (5) The board shall be assigned to the Governor's Office for
119 administrative purposes only, and the Governor's Office shall
120 designate staff to assist the board. The board may solicit
121 grants, donations and other funds and may accept and expend any
122 funds that are made available to the entity to carry out its
123 purpose.

124 (6) All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of
125 the state, including the state universities and the community and
126 junior colleges, shall cooperate with the board with such
127 assistance as requested by the board.



128 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
129 and after July 1, 2002.

