

By: Representative Brown

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1357

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE
2 SELECTION AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS IN
3 MISSISSIPPI; TO REQUIRE THE TASK FORCE TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON ITS
4 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2003 REGULAR SESSION OF THE
5 LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to conduct a
8 study on the selection and governance structures of local school
9 boards in Mississippi. The purpose of the study is to review
10 current statutory provisions for the selection of school board
11 members and the forms of governance of school boards and to
12 consider optional methods of selecting members, of school boards
13 in Mississippi which may enhance and promote more efficient
14 operations of school systems. The membership of the task force
15 shall include the following thirteen (13) members:

16 (a) The Chair of the Senate Education Committee, who
17 will serve as temporary chair of the task force;

18 (b) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the
19 Lieutenant Governor;

20 (c) The Chair of the House of Representatives Education
21 Committee;

22 (d) One (1) member of the House appointed by the
23 Speaker of the House;

24 (e) One (1) local school board member appointed by the
25 Mississippi School Boards Association who is an elected member of
26 a local board of education;



27 (f) One (1) local school board member appointed by the
28 Mississippi School Boards Association who is an appointed member
29 of a local board of education;

30 (g) One (1) representative of the business community
31 appointed by the Mississippi Economic Council;

32 (h) One (1) representative from the Public Education
33 Forum;

34 (i) One (1) local elected superintendent of education
35 appointed by the Mississippi Association of School
36 Superintendents;

37 (j) One (1) local appointed superintendent of education
38 appointed by the Mississippi Association of School
39 Superintendents;

40 (k) One (1) member of the general public appointed by
41 the Lieutenant Governor;

42 (l) One (1) member of the general public appointed by
43 the Speaker of the House; and

44 (m) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
45 Development Authority.

46 (2) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
47 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the
48 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for
49 implementation in the 2003 Regular Session. The task force may
50 recommend continuation of its review until the 2004 Regular
51 Session if it is unable to complete its responsibilities before
52 the beginning of the 2003 Regular Session.

53 (3) The temporary chair of the task force shall call a
54 meeting within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this act.
55 The task force shall elect a chair from its membership, in
56 addition to such other officers as it may deem appropriate. A
57 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
58 quorum. All members will be notified in writing of all meetings,



59 and such notices must be mailed at least five (5) days before the
60 date on which a meeting is to be held.

61 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid from
62 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the
63 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the
64 Legislature is not in session. Subject to the availability of
65 legislative appropriations specifically for such purpose,
66 nonlegislative members of the task force who are not state
67 employees or local school district employees shall be reimbursed
68 for actual and necessary expenses in attending called meetings of
69 the task force.

70 (5) All agencies and divisions of agencies affected by this
71 study and review must cooperate with the task force in formulating
72 and preparing its recommendations.

73 (6) The task force may select a consultant or consultants to
74 conduct the study mandated under this act, subject to specific
75 appropriation therefor by the Legislature, and following the
76 applicable regulations of the Personal Service Contract Review
77 Board.

78 (7) The task force may utilize staff employed by the
79 agencies and school districts affected by this study and any other
80 assistance made available to it.

81 (8) Upon presentation of its final report, the task force
82 shall be dissolved.

83 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after its passage.

