

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Chaney, King

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2208

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A BEST FINANCIAL  
2 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES REVIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
3 TO IMPROVE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AND USE OF  
4 RESOURCES AND IDENTIFY COST SAVINGS; TO DIRECT CERTAIN STATE  
5 AGENCIES AND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST WITH  
6 THIS REVIEW; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT TO THE 2003 REGULAR SESSION  
7 OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created a Task Force to  
10 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State  
11 Department of Education to improve Mississippi school district  
12 management and use of resources and identify cost savings. The  
13 membership of the Task Force shall include the following nine (9)  
14 members: (a) the State Superintendent of Education, who shall  
15 serve as Chairman of the Task Force; (b) the Chairman of the  
16 Senate Education Committee, the Chairman of the Senate  
17 Appropriations Committee and one (1) member of the Senate  
18 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; (c) the Chairman of the  
19 House of Representatives Education Committee, the Chairman of the  
20 House Appropriations Committee and one (1) member of the House  
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House; (d) one (1) local school  
22 superintendent appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and (e) one  
23 (1) representative of the business community appointed by the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Task Force to  
25 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review of the State  
26 Department of Education study and submit to the Governor and the  
27 Legislature for review and adoption proposed revisions to the best  
28 financial management practices of the public school system which,  
29 at a minimum, shall instill public confidence by addressing the



30 State Department of Education's and the local school districts'  
31 use of resources; identifying ways that the department and the  
32 local districts could save funds; and improving the department's  
33 and the local school districts' performance accountability  
34 systems. To achieve these objectives, best practices shall be  
35 developed for, but need be limited to, the following areas:

36 (a) Management structures, including the size of the  
37 department;

38 (b) Performance accountability;

39 (c) Efficient delivery of educational services,  
40 including instructional materials;

41 (d) Teacher recruitment, the Mississippi Teacher  
42 Center, the Critical Teacher Shortage Act, and employment of  
43 recruited teachers by local school districts;

44 (e) Administrative and instructional technology;

45 (f) Personnel systems and benefits management;

46 (g) Facilities construction and maintenance;

47 (h) Vocational-technical programs;

48 (i) Teacher certification;

49 (j) The Mississippi Adequate Education Funding Formula;

50 (k) The number and size of school districts and  
51 schools;

52 (l) Cost control systems and financial auditing of the  
53 department and school districts.

54 In areas for which the department or local school districts  
55 have not adopted the best practices, the Task Force may develop  
56 revised practices, with input from a broad range of stakeholders.

57 (2) The Task Force shall make a report of its findings and  
58 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the  
59 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for  
60 implementation in the 2003 Regular Session. The Task Force may  
61 recommend continuation of its review until the 2004 Regular  
62 Session if it is unable to complete its responsibilities.



63           (3) The Task Force shall meet on the call of the chairman  
64 and shall organize by selecting from its membership a vice  
65 chairman who shall also serve as secretary and shall be  
66 responsible for keeping all records of the Task Force. A majority  
67 of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. All  
68 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices  
69 to be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date on which a  
70 meeting is to be held.

71           (4) Legislative members of the Task Force shall be paid from  
72 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the  
73 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the  
74 Legislature is not in session. Nonlegislative members of the Task  
75 Force who are not state employees or local school district  
76 employees shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses in  
77 attending called meetings of the Task Force, to be paid from any  
78 funds made available for such purpose by the Legislature.

79           (5) All agencies and divisions of agencies affected by this  
80 study and review are hereby directed to cooperate with the Task  
81 Force to Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review of  
82 the State Department of Education, specifically the State  
83 Department of Education, the Board of Trustees of State  
84 Institutions of Higher Learning, and the State Board for Community  
85 and Junior Colleges, in formulating and preparing its  
86 recommendations.

87           (6) The Task Force is empowered to select a consultant or  
88 consultants to conduct the study mandated under this section,  
89 subject to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature, and  
90 following the applicable regulations of the Personal Service  
91 Contract Review Board.

92           (7) The Task Force is empowered to utilize staff already  
93 employed by the agencies and school districts affected by this  
94 study and any other assistance made available to it.



95           (8) Upon presentation of its final report, the Task Force  
96 shall be dissolved.

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

