

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Labor; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2572

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR; TO SET  
2 FORTH AND PRESCRIBE THE FUNCTIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WITHIN  
3 THE DEPARTMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF  
4 THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR; TO AMEND SECTION 71-5-101, MISSISSIPPI  
5 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DUTIES, POWERS AND FUNDS OF THE  
6 MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO  
7 THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF  
8 LABOR; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 71-5-103, 71-5-105 AND 71-5-107,  
9 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR MEETINGS AND  
10 COMPENSATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION; TO  
11 EMPOWER THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO ADMINISTER AND COORDINATE  
12 CERTAIN FEDERAL AND STATE-FUNDED JOB TRAINING AND  
13 EMPLOYMENT-RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 7-1-351,  
14 7-1-355, 7-1-357, 7-1-361, 7-1-363 AND 7-1-365, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
15 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; TO PRESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES  
16 OF THE OFFICE OF INDUSTRY SERVICE AND INDUSTRY START-UP TRAINING,  
17 THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS AND JOB DISCRIMINATION AND THE  
18 OFFICE OF DISABLED EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT; TO  
19 AMEND SECTION 25-3-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO SET THE ANNUAL  
20 SALARY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR; TO AMEND SECTION 25-3-33,  
21 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE CERTAIN FIXED SALARIES; AND  
22 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

24 **SECTION 1.** The following terms shall have the meanings  
25 ascribed herein, unless the context shall otherwise require:

- 26 (a) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor.
- 27 (b) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of  
28 Labor.
- 29 (c) "Director" means the administrative head of an  
30 office.
- 31 (d) "Office" means an administrative subdivision of the  
32 department.

33 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Department  
34 of Labor for the following purposes:

- 35 (a) To coordinate employer-employee services and  
36 relations;



37 (b) To establish and oversee an effective and efficient  
38 work force development system in Mississippi to enable residents  
39 to acquire skills necessary to maximize their economic  
40 self-sufficiency; and

41 (c) To provide Mississippi employers with the work  
42 force they need to effectively compete in the changing world  
43 economy.

44 (2) The department shall be composed of the following  
45 offices:

46 (a) The Office of Employment Security;

47 (b) The Office of Job Development and Training;

48 (c) The Office of Industry Service and Industry  
49 Start-up Training;

50 (d) The Office of Employee Relations and Job  
51 Discrimination; and

52 (e) The Office of Disabled Employee Assistance.

53 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Labor shall provide the  
54 labor-management services authorized by law and by the rules,  
55 regulations and policies of the department to every individual  
56 determined to be eligible therefor, and in carrying out the  
57 purposes of this act, the department is authorized:

58 (a) To expend funds received either by appropriation or  
59 directly from federal or private sources;

60 (b) To cooperate with other departments, agencies and  
61 institutions, both public and private, in providing the services  
62 authorized by this act to individuals, in studying the problems  
63 involved therein, and in establishing, developing and providing in  
64 conformity with the purposes of this act such programs, facilities  
65 and services as may be necessary or desirable;

66 (c) To enter into reciprocal agreements with other  
67 states to provide for the services authorized by this act to  
68 residents of the states concerned;



69 (d) To conduct research and compile statistics relating  
70 to the provision of services to or the need of services by  
71 individuals;

72 (e) To enter into contractual arrangements with the  
73 federal government and with other authorized public agencies or  
74 persons for performance of services related to labor-management;

75 (f) To take such action as may be necessary to enable  
76 the department to apply for, accept and receive for the state and  
77 its residents the full benefits available under any federal  
78 legislation or program having as its purpose the providing of,  
79 improvement of or extension of labor-management services.

80 **SECTION 4.** (1) The chief officer of the department shall be  
81 denominated the Commissioner of Labor who shall be appointed by  
82 the Governor. His term of office shall be for four (4) years as  
83 that of other state officials. The commissioner shall receive a  
84 compensation to be fixed by law. The commissioner shall be  
85 responsible for the proper administration of the programs of  
86 labor-management relations provided under this act and shall be  
87 responsible for appointing directors of offices and any necessary  
88 supervisors, assistants and employees. The salary and  
89 compensation of such employees shall be subject to the rules and  
90 regulations adopted and promulgated by the State Personnel Board  
91 as created under Section 25-9-101 et seq.

92 (2) In carrying out his duties under this act, the  
93 Commissioner of Labor:

94 (a) Shall promulgate regulations governing personnel  
95 standards, the protection of records and confidential information,  
96 the manner and form of filing applications, eligibility and  
97 investigation and determination therefor, for labor-management  
98 services, procedures for fair hearings and such other regulations  
99 as he finds necessary to carry out the purposes of this act and in  
100 conformity with federal law;



- 101           (b) Shall establish appropriate subordinate  
102 administrative units within the department;
- 103           (c) Shall prepare and submit to the Legislature annual  
104 reports of activities and expenditures and, before each regular  
105 session of the Legislature, coordinate budget requests required  
106 for carrying out this act and estimates of the amounts to be made  
107 available for this purpose from all sources;
- 108           (d) Shall be empowered to exercise executive and  
109 administrative supervision over all institutions, offices,  
110 programs and services now existing or hereafter acquired or  
111 created under the jurisdiction of the department;
- 112           (e) Shall make certification for disbursement, in  
113 accordance with regulations, of funds available for implementing  
114 the purposes of this act;
- 115           (f) Shall take such other action as he deems necessary  
116 or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this act;
- 117           (g) May delegate to any officer or employee of the  
118 department such of his powers and duties as he finds necessary to  
119 effectuate the purposes of this act.

120           **SECTION 5.** Section 71-5-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
121 amended as follows:

122           71-5-101. From and after the effective date of this act, the  
123 duties and powers of the Mississippi Employment Security  
124 Commission and all equipment, supplies, records and any funds  
125 appropriated by the Legislature to the Mississippi Employment  
126 Security Commission shall be transferred to the Office of  
127 Employment Security in the Mississippi Department of Labor created  
128 in Senate Bill No. 2572, 2002 Regular Session. From and after the  
129 effective date of this act, the Mississippi Employment Security  
130 Commission shall be abolished. Any reference in this chapter to  
131 "Mississippi Employment Security Commission" or "commission" means  
132 the Office of Employment Security within the Mississippi  
133 Department of Labor created in this act.



134           **SECTION 6.** Sections 71-5-103, 71-5-105 and 71-5-107,  
135 Mississippi Code of 1972, which provide for meetings and  
136 compensation of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission,  
137 are repealed.

138           **SECTION 7.** The Office of Job Development and Training of the  
139 Mississippi Department of Labor shall administer and coordinate as  
140 necessary the following federally and state-funded employment,  
141 training and employment-related education programs: (a) training  
142 and employment-related education programs sponsored by the federal  
143 Job Training Partnership Act; (b) employment programs under the  
144 Wagner-Peyser Act; (c) employment, training and education programs  
145 for welfare recipients funded by the federal JOBS and Basic Skills  
146 Training Program within the Family Support Act; and (d) the  
147 Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.

148           **SECTION 8.** Section 7-1-351, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
149 amended as follows:

150           7-1-351. The Office of Job Development and Training of the  
151 Department of Labor shall be the Division of Job Development and  
152 Training and shall retain all powers and duties granted by law to  
153 the Division of Job Development and Training and wherever the term  
154 "Division of Job Development and Training" shall appear in any law  
155 it shall mean the Department of Labor. The Commissioner of Labor  
156 may assign to appropriate divisions powers and duties as deemed  
157 appropriate to carry out the lawful functions of the department.

158           **SECTION 9.** Section 7-1-355, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
159 amended as follows:

160           7-1-355. The Office of Job Development and Training,  
161 Department of Labor is hereby designated as the sole administrator  
162 of all programs for which the state is the prime sponsor under  
163 Title 1(B) of Public Law 105-220, Workforce Investment Act of  
164 1998, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and is hereby  
165 authorized to take all necessary action to secure to this state  
166 the benefits of such legislation. The Office of Job Development



167 and Training is empowered to receive and disburse funds for such  
168 programs which become available to it from any source.

169 **SECTION 10.** Section 7-1-357, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
170 amended as follows:

171 7-1-357. The Office of Job Development and Training,  
172 Department of Labor, is authorized to cooperate with or enter into  
173 agreements with any agency, official, educational institution or  
174 political subdivision of this state, any agency or official of the  
175 government of the United States of America or any private person,  
176 firm, partnership or corporation in order to carry out the  
177 provisions of Sections 7-1-351 through 7-1-371.

178 **SECTION 11.** Section 7-1-361, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
179 amended as follows:

180 7-1-361. The Office of Job Development and Training,  
181 Department of Labor, is authorized to promulgate such rules and  
182 regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of  
183 Sections 7-1-351 through 7-1-371.

184 **SECTION 12.** Section 7-1-363, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
185 amended as follows:

186 7-1-363. To the maximum extent practicable, the Department  
187 of Labor shall contract with the Division of Vocational-Technical  
188 Education of the State Department of Education all programs  
189 embracing an institutional training component. Such programs  
190 shall be contracted to the Division of Vocational-Technical  
191 Education of the State Department of Education, except those  
192 programs funded by the Governor's special grant, shall be  
193 coordinated with and complementary to the existing state public  
194 educational systems and shall not be duplicative or competitive in  
195 nature to such systems.

196 **SECTION 13.** Section 7-1-365, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
197 amended as follows:

198 7-1-365. The State Department of Education,  
199 Vocational-Technical Division, the board of trustees of any junior



200 college district, the board of trustees of any school district,  
201 the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, and the Office of  
202 Job Development and Training, Department of Labor, shall cooperate  
203 in carrying out the provisions of Sections 7-1-351 through  
204 7-1-371.

205       **SECTION 14.** The Office of Industry Service and Industry  
206 Start-up Training in the Mississippi Department of Labor shall  
207 contract with the State Board of Community/Junior Colleges, and  
208 the Division of Vocational-Technical Education of the State  
209 Department of Education to provide (a) all programs embracing an  
210 existing industry or a new industrial training component, and (b)  
211 all employment-related community/junior college or  
212 employment-related secondary education programs.

213       **SECTION 15.** The Office of Employee Relations and Job  
214 Discrimination in the Mississippi Department of Labor shall do all  
215 in its power to promote the voluntary arbitration, mediation and  
216 conciliation of disputes between employers and employees and to  
217 avoid strikes, picketing, lockouts, boycotts, black list,  
218 discriminations and legal proceedings in matters of employment.  
219 In pursuance of this duty, the office may appoint temporary boards  
220 of arbitration, provide necessary expenses of such boards, order  
221 reasonable compensation for each member engaged in such  
222 arbitration, prescribe rules for such arbitration boards, conduct  
223 investigations and hearings, publish reports and advertisements,  
224 and may do all things convenient and necessary to accomplish the  
225 purpose. The office may designate a mediator and may detail  
226 employees or persons not in the office from time to time for the  
227 purpose of executing such provisions. Nothing in this section  
228 shall be construed to in anywise prohibit or limit employees'  
229 right to bargain collectively.

230       **SECTION 16.** The Office of Disabled Employee Assistance of  
231 the Mississippi Department of Labor shall function as an  
232 information clearinghouse and referral service for employees and



233 employers regarding any aspect of the federal Americans With  
234 Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination in all terms and  
235 conditions of employment regarding private and public employers.

236 **SECTION 17.** Section 25-3-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
237 amended as follows:

238 25-3-31. The annual salaries of the following elected state  
239 and district officers are fixed as follows:

240	Governor.....	\$101,800.00
241	Attorney General.....	90,800.00
242	Secretary of State.....	75,000.00
243	Commissioner of Insurance.....	75,000.00
244	State Treasurer.....	75,000.00
245	State Auditor of Public Accounts.....	75,000.00
246	Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.....	75,000.00
247	Transportation Commissioners.....	65,000.00
248	Public Service Commissioners.....	65,000.00
249	<u>Commissioner of Labor</u> .....	<u>75,000.00</u>

250 The above fixed salary of the Governor shall be the reference  
251 amount utilized in computing average compensation and earned  
252 compensation pursuant to Section 25-11-103(f) and Section  
253 25-11-103(k) and to related sections which require such  
254 computations.

255 **SECTION 18.** Section 25-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
256 amended as follows:

257 25-3-33. The annual salaries of the following appointive  
258 state and district officials and employees are fixed as follows:

259	Deputy Attorney General, not to exceed.....	\$72,800.00
260	Assistant Attorneys General shall each	
261	receive annual salaries in an amount	
262	to be fixed by the Attorney General	
263	but not to exceed.....	68,400.00

264 Military Department--National Guard:

265	Adjutant General.....	80,000.00
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266	Department of Banking and Consumer Finance:	
267	Commissioner.....	85,000.00
268	Chairman of the State Tax Commission	
269	(Commissioner of Revenue).....	91,000.00
270	Associate Commissioners, each.....	42,000.00
271	Director of Emergency Management Agency.....	65,000.00
272	Department of Public Safety:	
273	Commissioner of Public Safety.....	80,000.00
274	Director, Office of Mississippi	
275	Highway Safety Patrol, or his	
276	successor.....	70,000.00
277	Director, Office of Support Services,	
278	or his successor.....	70,000.00
279	Department of Human Services:	
280	Director, not to exceed.....	85,000.00
281	Workers' Compensation Commission:	
282	Chairman.....	80,000.00
283	Members, each.....	78,000.00
284	Executive Director.....	75,000.00
285	Administrative Judge, each.....	75,000.00
286	Archives and History:	
287	Director, not to exceed.....	70,000.00
288	State Forester.....	70,000.00
289	State Oil and Gas Board:	
290	Secretary-Supervisor.....	70,000.00
291	Educational Television Authority:	
292	Executive Director.....	70,000.00
293	Director, Mississippi Library Commission,	
294	not to exceed.....	70,000.00
295	Executive Secretary, Public Service	
296	Commission.....	65,000.00
297	Parole Board:	
298	Chairman.....	50,000.00



299	Administrative Assistant for Parole	
300	Matters.....	42,000.00
301	Members, each.....	44,000.00
302	Governor's State Bond Advisory Division:	
303	Director.....	55,000.00
304	* * *	
305	Executive Director, Department of Mental	
306	Health, to be determined by the State	
307	Board of Mental Health, not to exceed.....	85,000.00
308	Director, Division of Medicaid, not to	
309	exceed.....	85,000.00
310	Director, State Department of	
311	Transportation, not to exceed.....	85,000.00
312	State Entomologist.....	65,000.00
313	Clerk of the Supreme Court.....	60,000.00
314	State Aid Engineer, Division of State Aid	
315	Road Construction.....	70,000.00
316	Executive Director, Judicial Performance	
317	Commission.....	65,000.00
318	Executive Director, Department of Finance	
319	and Administration.....	85,000.00
320	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the	
321	Blind, to be determined by the State	
322	Board of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
323	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the	
324	Deaf, to be determined by the State	
325	Board of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
326	Executive Director, State Fair Commission.....	65,000.00
327	Executive Director, Department of Wildlife,	
328	Fisheries and Parks.....	80,000.00
329	Executive Director, Department of	
330	Environmental Quality.....	85,000.00



331	Executive Director, Pat Harrison Waterway	
332	District.....	65,000.00
333	Executive Director, Pearl River Basin	
334	Development District.....	61,000.00
335	Executive Director, Pearl River Valley	
336	Water Supply District.....	71,000.00
337	Executive Director, Tombigbee River Valley	
338	Water Management District.....	61,000.00
339	Director, Soil and Water Conservation	
340	Commission.....	60,000.00
341	Commissioner, Mississippi Department of	
342	Corrections.....	85,000.00
343	Executive Director, Mississippi Department	
344	of Information Technology Services.....	85,000.00
345	Director, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.....	60,000.00
346	Executive Secretary, State Veterans Affairs	
347	Board.....	55,000.00
348	Executive Officer, Veterans' Home Purchase	
349	Board.....	65,000.00
350	Chief Administrative Officer, Motor Vehicle	
351	Commission.....	55,000.00
352	Stadium Manager, Mississippi Veterans	
353	Memorial Stadium.....	55,000.00
354	Executive Director, Mississippi Arts	
355	Commission.....	55,000.00
356	Director, Mississippi Board of Nursing.....	60,000.00
357	Director, State Board of Pharmacy.....	60,000.00
358	Director, State Board of Public Contractors.....	50,000.00
359	Director, Real Estate Commission.....	55,000.00
360	Director of Support Services, Department of	
361	Rehabilitation Services.....	80,000.00
362	Executive Director, State Fire Academy.....	55,000.00



363	Executive Director, Law Enforcement	
364	Officers Training Academy.....	50,000.00
365	Executive Director, State Board of	
366	Accountancy.....	60,000.00
367	Executive Director, Mississippi Gaming	
368	Commission.....	90,000.00
369	Executive Director, Mississippi Department	
370	of Marine Resources.....	70,000.00
371	Executive Director, State Board of	
372	Registration for Professional	
373	Engineers and Land Surveyors.....	55,000.00
374	Executive Director, Public Utilities Staff.....	85,000.00
375	State Law Librarian.....	60,000.00
376	State Personnel Director.....	75,000.00
377	Manager, Farmers Central Market, Department	
378	of Agriculture and Commerce.....	40,000.00
379	State Veterinarian.....	70,000.00
380	Executive Director, Mississippi Ethics	
381	Commission.....	70,000.00

382       **SECTION 19.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
383 and after July 1, 2002.

