

By: Representatives Hines, Bailey, Holloway To: Gaming; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1219

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL
2 LEGALIZATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF A STATE LOTTERY, THE
3 POTENTIAL LEGALIZATION AND REGULATION OF ELECTRONIC VIDEO MACHINES
4 IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND THE BENEFITS THAT MAY BE REALIZED
5 BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND ITS CITIZENS FROM SUCH ACTION, AND
6 TO MAKE A REPORT THEREON TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to study the
10 potential legalization, establishment and operation of a state
11 lottery, the potential legalization and regulation of electronic
12 video machines in the State of Mississippi, and the benefits that
13 may be realized by the State of Mississippi and its citizens from
14 such action. The task force shall make a report of its findings
15 and recommendations to the Legislature during the 2005 Regular
16 Legislative Session and each regular legislative session
17 thereafter, including any recommended legislation.

18 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following ten
19 (10) members:

20 (a) Three (3) members of the Mississippi House of
21 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House
22 of Representatives;

23 (b) Three (3) members of the Mississippi Senate
24 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi;

25 (c) One (1) member appointed by each of the members of
26 the Mississippi Gaming Commission; and

27 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Gaming
28 Commission.

29 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
30 the effective date of this act, and, within fifteen (15) days
31 thereafter on a day to be designated jointly by the Speaker of the
32 House and the Lieutenant Governor, the task force shall meet and
33 organize by selecting from its membership a chairman and a vice
34 chairman. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary and
35 shall be responsible for keeping all records of the task force. A
36 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a
37 quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of
38 rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority
39 of the task force shall be required. All members shall be
40 notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at
41 least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to
42 be held.

43 (4) The task force shall study and make recommendations
44 regarding the potential legalization, establishment and operation
45 of a state lottery, the potential legalization and regulation of
46 electronic video machines in the State of Mississippi, and the
47 benefits that may be realized by the State of Mississippi and its
48 citizens from such action.

49 (5) Members of the task force who are not legislators, state
50 officials or state employees shall be compensated at the per diem
51 rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and shall be reimbursed in
52 accordance with Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses
53 incurred in the performance of their duties. Legislative members
54 of the task force shall be paid from the contingent expense funds
55 of their respective houses in the same manner as provided for
56 committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session.
57 However, no per diem or expense for attending meetings of the task
58 force will be paid to legislative members of the task force while
59 the Legislature is in session. No task force member may incur per
60 diem, travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by
61 vote, at a meeting of the task force, which action shall be

62 recorded in the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative
63 members shall be paid from any funds made available to the task
64 force for that purpose.

65 (6) The task force shall use clerical and legal staff
66 already employed by the Legislature and any other staff assistance
67 made available to it. To effectuate the purposes of this section,
68 any department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of
69 the state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
70 request of the chairman of the task force, provide to the task
71 force such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the task
72 force properly to carry out its task.

73 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2004.