

By: Representative Pierce

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 823

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
2 EFFICIENCY OF THE MISSISSIPPI ADEQUATE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN
3 PROVIDING ADEQUACY AND EQUITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a commission to study the
7 effectiveness and efficiency of the Mississippi Adequate Education
8 Program (MAEP) in providing adequacy and equity in public school
9 funding. The commission shall, at a minimum, study and report on
10 the following factors related to MAEP:

- 11 (a) Efficiency;
- 12 (b) Selection of school districts for funding
- 13 calculations;
- 14 (c) High growth districts;
- 15 (d) State and local contributions; and
- 16 (e) Add on programs.

17 The State Board of Education shall contract with a consulting firm
18 that has expertise in public school funding formulas to assist the
19 commission with the study. The commission shall make a report of
20 its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by November 1,
21 2005, including any recommended legislation.

22 (2) The commission shall be composed of the following ten
23 (10) members:

- 24 (a) The Chairman of the House and Senate Education
- 25 Committees;
- 26 (b) The Chairman of the House and Senate Appropriation
- 27 Committees;

28 (c) Three (3) representatives to be appointed by the
29 Speaker of the House; and

30 (d) Three (3) senators to be appointed by the
31 Lieutenant Governor.

32 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
33 the effective date of this act. The commission shall hold its
34 first meeting before August 1, 2005. The Chairman of the House
35 Education Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Education
36 Committee shall serve as cochairmen of the commission.

37 (4) Members of the commission may not be compensated for the
38 performance of their duties. Any incidental costs associated with
39 conducting the study shall be paid by the State Department of
40 Education.

41 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
42 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
43 state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
44 request of the chairperson of the task force, provide to the
45 commission such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the
46 commission to properly carry out its duties.

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