

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 214: Curriculum choices; SDE design for students interested in direct entry into workforce.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

1       **AMEND** by inserting the following after line 20 and  
2 renumbering subsequent section:

3       **SECTION 3.** No local school board, school superintendent or  
4 school principal shall prohibit a public school classroom teacher  
5 from discussing and answering questions from individual students  
6 on the origin of life.

7       **SECTION 4.** (1) There is created a commission to study the  
8 effectiveness and efficiency of the administration of college  
9 tuition assistance programs administered by the Institutions of  
10 Higher Learning. In addition, the commission shall evaluate merit  
11 based college tuition assistance programs and establish procedures  
12 and guidelines for implementing merit based programs.

13       The commission shall make a report of its findings and  
14 recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees and  
15 to the House and Senate Universities and Colleges Committees by  
16 October 1, 2006, including any recommended legislation. Upon  
17 submission of its report to the Legislature the commission shall  
18 be dissolved.

19       (2) The commission shall be composed of the following five  
20 (5) members:

21       (a) A representative of the State Department of  
22 Education, to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public  
23 Education;

24 (b) A representative from the Institutions of Higher  
25 Learning, to be appointed by the commissioner;

26 (c) A representative from the State Board for Community  
27 and Junior Colleges, to be appointed by the executive director;

28 (d) A representative from the Mississippi Association  
29 of Independent Colleges appointed by the President of the  
30 Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges; and

31 (e) The State Treasurer, or his designee.

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 July 15, 2006.

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

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

45 **AMEND FURTHER** on line 22 by striking the language "July 1,  
46 2006" and inserting in lieu thereof "passage"

47 **AMEND FURTHER** the title by inserting the following after line  
48 3:

49 "TO PROVIDE THAT NO LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OR  
50 SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SHALL PROHIBIT A TEACHER FROM DISCUSSING AND  
51 ANSWERING QUESTIONS ON THE ORIGIN OF LIFE; TO CREATE A COMMISSION  
52 TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
53 COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE

54 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND EVALUATE MERIT BASED COLLEGE  
55 TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS;"

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Brown

X (SIGNED)  
Morris

X (SIGNED)  
Frierson

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Chaney

X (SIGNED)  
Carmichael

X (SIGNED)  
Thomas