

By: Senator(s) Chaney

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2346

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-21-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR EARLY
3 CHILDHOOD SERVICES TO COORDINATE ALL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
4 SERVICES THROUGH THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-21-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-21-55. (1) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early
10 Childhood Services is created to develop and make recommendations
11 to the Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council
12 established under Section 37-21-53 as deemed necessary to
13 implement the council's responsibilities relating to all programs
14 serving preschool children and their families in Mississippi.

15 (2) The membership of the Interagency Advisory Committee for
16 Early Childhood Services shall be as follows:

17 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education, Public Health
18 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their Senate
19 designees;

20 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education, Public Health
21 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their House
22 designees;

23 (c) A representative of the Governor;

24 (d) A representative of the State Department of
25 Education;

26 (e) A representative of the State Department of Health;

27 (f) A representative of the Department of Human
28 Services;

29 (g) A representative of the State Department of Mental
30 Health;

31 (h) A representative of the State Department of
32 Rehabilitation Services;

33 (i) The following representatives of the early
34 childhood profession:

35 (i) The President of the Mississippi Head Start
36 Association;

37 (ii) A representative from a regulated family
38 child care home network appointed by the Governor;

39 (iii) A representative from a licensed child care
40 center appointed by the President of the Senate;

41 (iv) A representative from a public school
42 prekindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

43 (v) A representative from a private school
44 prekindergarten program appointed by the Governor;

45 (vi) A representative from a half-day church
46 sponsored prekindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the
47 House;

48 (vii) A representative from a university or
49 college early childhood program appointed by the President of the
50 Senate;

51 (viii) A representative of a tribal early
52 childhood program appointed by the Governor;

53 (ix) A representative of an early childhood
54 professional organization appointed by the President of the
55 Senate;

56 (x) A representative of an advocacy organization
57 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

58 (xi) A representative of a community or junior
59 college early childhood program appointed by the Governor;

60 (j) A parent of a preschool-age child appointed by the
61 Governor;

62 (k) A parent of a preschool-age child with special
63 needs appointed by the Speaker of the House;

64 (l) A representative of the cooperative extension
65 services appointed by the President of the Senate;

66 (m) A physician who is a member of the Mississippi
67 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, appointed by the
68 Director of the University Medical Center;

69 (n) The Director of the Mississippi Public Education
70 Forum, or his designee; and

71 (o) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Economic
72 Council, or his designee.

73 To the extent possible, any representative of a state agency
74 designated to serve on the Interagency Advisory Committee shall be
75 the same individual designated to assist the Interagency
76 Coordinating Council in performing its duties and
77 responsibilities.

78 (3) The advisory committee shall meet upon call of the Early
79 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council before August
80 1, 2000, and the council shall appoint a chairman from among the
81 membership of the advisory committee. The chairman shall serve
82 for a one-year term and may be reappointed for subsequent terms.
83 The advisory committee shall adopt internal organizational
84 procedures necessary for efficient operation of the advisory
85 committee and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific
86 programs and activities. Advisory committee procedures must
87 include duties of officers, a process for selecting officers,
88 duties of subcommittees, quorum requirements for conducting
89 business and policies for any staff. The members of the Early
90 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council shall
91 designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the
92 advisory committee in performing its duties and responsibilities.
93 The advisory committee shall meet and conduct business at least
94 quarterly. Quarterly meetings of the advisory committee shall be

95 open to the public, and opportunity for public comment must be
96 made available at each meeting. The staff of the advisory
97 committee shall notify all persons who request such notice as to
98 the date, time and place of each meeting.

99 (4) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood
100 Services, in addition to responsibilities assigned by the Early
101 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council, shall perform
102 each of the following duties:

103 (a) Assist in the implementation of the study conducted
104 by the Task Force on the Development and Implementation of
105 Comprehensive Early Childhood Services in Mississippi established
106 under Laws, 1999, Chapter 584;

107 (b) Identify services to children which impact early
108 childhood development and education;

109 (c) Identify and recommend methods to facilitate
110 interagency coordination of service programs for preschool
111 children; and

112 (d) Serve as a forum for information exchange regarding
113 recommendations and priorities in early childhood development and
114 education. * * *

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116 (5) The Advisory Board of the Interagency Council, with the
117 consent of a majority of its members, shall have the authority to
118 direct any state entity with early childhood responsibilities to
119 be coordinated through the Office of Children and Youth for the
120 purposes of alignment of the State of Mississippi's early
121 childhood educational efforts.

122 (6) Beginning in July 1, 2007, the Advisory Board of the
123 Interagency Council shall meet at the discretion of the Director
124 of the Office of Children and Youth to assess the appropriate
125 criteria for determining, and implementation of, the educational
126 components of the state's tiered reimbursement structure.

127 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
128 and after July 1, 2007.