

By: Representative Hines

To: Youth and Family
Affairs; Workforce
Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 185

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CHILD CARE FOR WORKING FAMILIES STUDY
2 COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP
3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENSURING EVERY WORKING PARENT IN MISSISSIPPI
4 CAN ACCESS AND AFFORD CHILD CARE SO THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE
5 LABOR FORCE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHALL IDENTIFY AND
6 EXAMINE ALL FEDERAL REVENUE RECEIVED BY THE STATE AND ALL STATE
7 FUNDS SPENT ON FEDERAL MATCHING OR MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT
8 REQUIREMENTS THAT CAN ALLOWABLY BE SPENT, ALLOCATED, TRANSFERRED,
9 GRANTED OR EXPENDED DIRECTLY TO THE CHILD CARE PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR
10 PURPOSES OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PARENTS AND CHILDREN
11 SERVED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Child Care for Working
14 Families Study Committee to identify and examine all federal
15 revenue received by Mississippi and all state funds spent on
16 federal matching or maintenance of effort requirements that can
17 allowably be spent, allocated, transferred, granted or expended
18 directly to the Child Care Payment Program (CCPP) administered by
19 the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS) for purposes
20 of developing strategies and recommendations for increasing the
21 current number of children and families receiving child care



22 assistance so that low- to moderate-income parents can participate
23 in the labor force.

24 The committee shall, at a minimum, study and report to the
25 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature the following:

26 (a) The total amount of federal revenue received by
27 Mississippi and the total amount of state funds spent on federal
28 matching or maintenance of effort requirements that can allowably
29 fund the Child Care Payment Program, and the total amounts of
30 federal revenue and of state spending disaggregated by agency,
31 program, and revenue source;

32 (b) A cost-benefit analysis examining the impact of
33 increasing Mississippi's labor force participation rate by
34 increasing access to affordable child care through reprioritizing
35 current expenditures of certain federal and state funds;

36 (c) The total number of children in families with
37 working parents earning eighty-five percent (85%) or less of state
38 median income;

39 (d) The total number of children on the Child Care
40 Payment Program pending funding list during state fiscal years
41 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025;

42 (e) The total annual funding required to serve all
43 current recipients of Child Care Payment Program assistance and
44 the total additional annual funding necessary to serve all
45 eligible children and families on the pending funding list;

46 (f) The economic impact of increasing the labor force



47 participation rate through increasing access to child care
48 assistance for unemployed and underemployed adults and the
49 economic impact of increasing spending at child care centers;

50 (g) Examples in Mississippi and/or in other states of
51 private employer-funded child care assistance for working parents;

52 (h) Benefits to employers of employee access to
53 affordable child care for more Mississippi workers; and

54 (i) Recommendations for increasing the amount of
55 federal revenue and state funds spent on child care assistance for
56 low- to moderate-income working parents.

57 (2) The Study Committee shall be composed of the following
58 eleven (11) members:

59 (a) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
60 Department of Human Services or his/her designee;

61 (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
62 Department of Employment Security or his/her designee;

63 (c) The Chairman of the State Workforce Investment
64 Board or his/her designee;

65 (d) The State Treasurer or his/her designee;

66 (e) The Executive Director of the Department of Finance
67 and Administration or his/her designee;

68 (f) The Governor's Workforce Development Policy
69 Advisor;

70 (g) The Chairman of the House Workforce Development
71 Committee;



72 (h) The Chairman of the Senate Economic Development
73 Committee;

74 (i) The Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee;

75 (j) A member of the Mississippi Community College
76 Board; and

77 (k) A designee of the community-based nonprofit
78 organization Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative.

79 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
80 the effective date of this act. The committee shall hold its
81 first meeting before August 1, 2024. The Executive Director of
82 the Department of Human Services or his/her designee shall serve
83 as chairman of the Study Committee.

84 (4) A majority of the members of the committee shall
85 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of the rules, resolutions
86 and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the members
87 shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of
88 all meetings, such notices shall be mailed at least five (5) days
89 before the date on which a meeting is to be held.

90 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
91 department, division, board, bureau, committee or agency of the
92 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request
93 of any member of the committee, provide such facilities,
94 assistance, information and data as will enable the committee to
95 properly carry out its duties.



96 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
97 and after July 1, 2024.

