

By: Representatives Chism, Espy

To: Education; Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE
2 CERTAIN LANGUAGE EXPLAINING THAT EVOLUTION IS A THEORY IN THE
3 INSIDE FRONT COVER OF CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The State Board of Education shall require every
7 textbook that includes the teaching of evolution in its contents
8 to include the following language on the inside front cover of the
9 textbook:

10 "The word 'theory' has many meanings, including:
11 systematically organized knowledge; abstract reasoning; a
12 speculative idea or plan; or a systematic statement of principles.
13 Scientific theories are based on both observations of the natural
14 world and assumptions about the natural world. They are always
15 subject to change in view of new and confirmed observations.

16 This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial theory
17 some scientists present as a scientific explanation for the origin
18 of living things. No one was present when life first appeared on
19 earth. Therefore, any statement about life's origins should be
20 considered a theory.

21 Evolution refers to the unproven belief that random,
22 undirected forces produced living things. There are many topics
23 with unanswered questions about the origin of life which are not
24 mentioned in your textbook, including: the sudden appearance of
25 the major groups of animals in the fossil record (known as the
26 Cambrian Explosion); the lack of new major groups of other living
27 things appearing in the fossil record; the lack of transitional



28 forms of major groups of plants and animals in the fossil record;
29 and the complete and complex set of instructions for building a
30 living body possessed by all living things.

31 Study hard and keep an open mind."

32 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2009.

