

By: Representative Formby

To: Rules; Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1411

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-1-351, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THE PROVISION OF LAW THAT
3 ESTABLISHES AND PRESCRIBES THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
4 INTERAGENCY FARM TO SCHOOL COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 69-1-351, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 69-1-351. (1) There is created an Interagency Farm to
9 School Council, to identify models and methods of promoting farm
10 to school programs in the state in order to improve the
11 availability of healthy, fresh foods in schools and to promote the
12 economic development of Mississippi farmers and food producers.

13 (2) The council shall be composed of the following members:

14 (a) One (1) person who represents the State Department
15 of Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Public
16 Education;

17 (b) One (1) person who represents the Mississippi
18 Department of Agriculture and Commerce, appointed by the
19 Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce;



20 (c) One (1) person who represents the State Department
21 of Health, appointed by the State Health Officer;

22 (d) One (1) person who represents the Mississippi State
23 University Extension Program;

24 (e) One (1) person who represents the Alcorn State
25 University Extension Program;

26 (f) One (1) person who represents food service
27 directors in Mississippi public schools, appointed by the State
28 Superintendent of Public Education;

29 (g) One (1) person who represents a nonprofit
30 organization in Mississippi working to promote farm to school
31 programs, appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and
32 Commerce;

33 (h) One (1) person who represents poultry producers in
34 Mississippi, appointed by the President of the Mississippi Poultry
35 Association;

36 (i) One (1) person who represents the Mississippi Farm
37 Bureau Federation.

38 (3) In appointing members of the council, the appointing
39 authority shall ensure that the members reflect the diversity of
40 this state, with members representing rural areas, urban areas and
41 different geographical regions of the state.

42 (4) The council is charged with facilitating the creation
43 and growth of farm to school programs in communities throughout
44 the State of Mississippi through studying, recommending and



45 administering best practices for creating farm to school programs.
46 This can be accomplished with actions including, but not limited
47 to:

48 (a) Creating and administering an assessment or survey
49 designed to evaluate what specific programs or efforts would be
50 the most effective in increasing the number of farm to school
51 programs in the State of Mississippi;

52 (b) Helping to develop and expand local pilot farm to
53 school programs in Mississippi;

54 (c) Notifying and assisting interested schools, farms,
55 and community organizations in applying for funding sources and
56 grants related to supporting and decreasing the cost of purchasing
57 locally grown and locally raised agricultural products to serve in
58 school meals;

59 (d) Assisting Mississippi farmers in marketing and
60 building commercial relationships with food service directors in
61 schools;

62 (e) Developing or administering training programs for
63 Mississippi farmers related to marketing crops, food safety,
64 processing crops, business management, liability and risk
65 management, and any other topics deemed appropriate by the
66 council;

67 (f) Working with the Mississippi Department of
68 Education Office of Child Nutrition to assist school food service
69 directors in creating and amending school procedures, procurement



70 forms, proper handling, preparing and storing procedures in order
71 to facilitate the purchase of locally grown and locally raised
72 agricultural products to be served in school meals;

73 (g) Developing or assisting an organization in
74 developing a website that lists schools and farmers interested in
75 participating in farm to school programs, promotes farm to school
76 events and programs throughout the state and promotes
77 communication and sales between Mississippi farmers and schools;
78 and

79 (h) Encouraging schools, community organizations,
80 restaurants, grocery retail stores and other local organizations
81 and businesses to purchase more locally grown and locally raised
82 agricultural products to serve or sell through their businesses in
83 order to support and increase local farmers' capacity to grow and
84 produce food for commercial purposes.

85 (5) The council should hold its first meeting no later than
86 August 1, 2013, with the date, time and location of this first
87 meeting to be determined jointly by the members serving on the
88 council. At the first meeting, the council shall elect a
89 chairman, vice chairman, and any other officers deemed necessary,
90 from its members. The council shall meet periodically but no less
91 than four (4) times per year.

92 (6) Members of the council shall serve without compensation
93 or reimbursement for their expenses related to participating in
94 the council, and the council shall function without appropriations



95 or state funds. However, the council can accept funds that may be
96 offered as financial grants from public or private sources. The
97 Mississippi State Legislature and any department, division, board,
98 bureau, commission or agency of the state, or of any political
99 subdivision thereof, may provide, at the request of the chair of
100 the council, such facilities, assistance and data as will enable
101 the council to carry out its duties.

102 (7) The council shall report its progress and findings to
103 the Education Committees of the House of Representatives and the
104 Senate, the Agriculture Committees of the House of Representatives
105 and the Senate, the Public Health and Human Services Committee of
106 the House of Representatives, the Public Health and Welfare
107 Committee of the Senate, or any successor committees, on or before
108 January 1, 2015, and once annually in each following year in which
109 the council is convened.

110 (8) The provisions of this section shall stand repealed from
111 and after July 1, * * * 2018.

112 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
113 and after July 1, 2015.

