

**URGENT – NEED RESPONSE FOR MONDAY, JAN. 21, INTRO DEADLINE**

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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** REP. EADS' DRAFT LEGISLATION CREATING EDUCATION COORDINATING ENTITY  
(HIGHER ED SUMMIT RECOMMENDATION)  
**DATE:** 1/17/02  
**CC:** FILE

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As we discussed following the Higher Ed Leadership Summit, Rep. Jay Eads has had legislation drafted creating the education coordinating entity recommended in the report. I've attached the draft bill for your review. **Rep. Eads is awaiting your okay on this language before submitting the draft language, so I need your okay before Monday.** I recommend that you okay the draft bills with the changes noted below.

Eads' bill would create a 17-member coordinating entity, comprised of:

- the Executive Director of the Public Education Forum
- the Chairman of the State Board of Education
- The Chairman of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
- The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of IHL
- The Director of the Mississippi Private School Association
- 12 other members appointed by the Governor (at least 1/3 shall work directly with school students)

The Steering Committee's report recommended that the coordinating entity be comprised of the board chairs and the chief executives of MDE, SBCJC and IHL, as well as the state's independent colleges and universities. These representatives of MDE, SBCJC and IHL are already working towards this end. Therefore, I think we should request Eads to amend the above to reflect a 12-member organization – I think 12 members will result in quicker productivity than 17 members:

- the Executive Director of the Public Education Forum
- the State Superintendent of Education
- the Chairman of the State Board of Education
- the Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
- the Chairman of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
- the Commissioner of Higher Learning
- the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of IHL
- the Director of the Mississippi Private School Association
- the Director of the Independent Colleges Association

- 3 other members appointed by the Governor (1 who works with K-12 students, 1 with Jr/Community College students and 2 who works at university level)

Do you agree with this revised composition or do you want to go with Eads' drafted composition?

Revised composition \_\_\_\_\_ Eads' composition \_\_\_\_\_

Section 2 (line 48) of Eads' draft provides for the coordinating council to study the methods to better align policies and practices across educational sectors to address the six recommendations and their components of the Steering Committee report.

Line 120 requires the entity to make a report of its work and any recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2002.

Line 123 of the draft assigns the entity to the Governor's Office for administrative purposes and requires the Governor's Office to assign staff to assist the coordinating entity.

The draft calls for the act to take effect from and after July 1, 2002.

Please advise as to any concerns or changes that you would like me to share with Rep. Eads. **I need to know by Monday morning.** Thanks!