EXECUTIVE ORDER 1335

WHEREAS, Mississippian\ns with disabilities, including those with intellectual and
developmental disabilities and mental illnesses, experience disproportionately high levels of
unemployment, underemployment, and dependence upon publicly funded programs; and

WHEREAS, Mississippian\ns with disabilities are a largely untapped resource for employers, and
in many cases the hiring of Mississippian\ns with disabilities represents a viable business option
that both meets the needs of an employer and provides opportunities for individuals with
disabilities to use their strengths and skills; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to supporting policies under which agencies that
provide services to persons with disabilities and/or provide employment, economic development,
or other related services explore employment in an integrated setting as the first priority option
for persons with disabilities who are of working age.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the
Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby order as follows:

1. State agencies that provide services and support to persons with disabilities, and
state agencies which provide employment, economic development, or other
related services, shall coordinate efforts and collaborate to ensure that state
programs, policies, and procedures support employment in integrated settings as
the first priority option, to the extent feasible, for persons with disabilities who are
of working age.

2. The same state agencies shall, whenever feasible, share data and information
across systems and adopt measurable goals and objectives to track progress
toward the achievement of the goals of this Executive Order.

3. The Mississippi Disability Resource Commission, Miss. Code Ann. § 43-30-1, is
authorized to monitor implementation of this Executive Order by:

   a. identifying state agency policies and procedures that create barriers or
disincentives to the employment of people with disabilities, and
developing recommendations to reduce or eliminate those barriers or
disincentives;

   b. identifying best practices, effective partnerships, potential funding
sources, and opportunities for shared services among state agencies to
increase integrated and competitive employment opportunities for
Mississippian\ns with disabilities;

   c. reviewing and commenting on proposed legislation that may affect the
employment of Mississippian\ns with disabilities, and considering
recommendations of organizations involved in promoting the employment
of individuals with disabilities;

   d. requesting the timely submission by state agencies of measurable goals
and objectives and tracking progress toward the achievement of those
goals and objectives; and

   e. preparing an annual report to the Governor and members of the
Legislature that both details progress toward achievement of the goals and
objectives of this Executive Order and also identifies any barriers thereto.
4. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be interpreted:
   
a. to limit or disallow any disability benefits to which a person with a
disability who is unable to be employed would otherwise be entitled;

b. to require any state agency or other employer to give preference to hiring
   persons with disabilities;

c. to prohibit any employment relationship or employment program that is
   otherwise permitted under applicable state and federal law;

d. to require the expenditure of funds on any particular program or at any
   particular level;

e. to grant any individual or organization a judicially enforceable right or
   cause of action; or

f. to prohibit the appropriate use of programs known as center-based
   employment, employment centers, skill development centers, vocational
   rehabilitation centers, and/or other employment options.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the
State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol, in the City of Jackson,
this the 14th day of January in the year of our
Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the two
hundred and thirty-eighth year of the United
States of America.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE