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Mississippi Takes a Step Closer to ABLE Accounts for Those with Disabilities

In December 2014, the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act was signed into law, establishing a mechanism for citizens to use tax-advantaged savings accounts to help cover qualified disability expenses. Those who qualify can save up to \$14,000 per year to use for education, housing modifications, transportation, health care, employment training, and other expenses that help improve health, independence, and/or quality of life.

When the law was passed, there were a lot of unanswered questions about how it would operate. Congress continues to tweak the law and the executive branch continues to work on the regulatory structure for ABLE. But many states have moved forward to set up these accounts. In fact, right now, 18 states have established ABLE programs, sometimes on their own and sometimes in partnership with other states.

Thanks to the hard work of Senator Kevin Blackwell and Representatives Cory Wilson and Carolyn Crawford, Mississippi is on the road to helping our disabled citizens with ABLE accounts, too. The Governor signed SB 2311 into law on March 20th. It sets up a board to look into ABLE programs and determine the best way to offer these benefits to Mississippians. I am pleased to be a part of that Board and I look forward to seeing how we can help Mississippians with disabilities.

In the meantime, I encourage you to check out the [ABLE National Resource Center](#) for more information about what benefits are available and how you can get started saving.