

By: Representative Flaggs

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 176

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE IN-SERVICE STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR
3 TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS TO BE DEDICATED TO SENSITIVITY
4 TRAINING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-17-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-17-8. (1) The State Board of Education, through the
9 Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish criteria for
10 comprehensive in-service staff development plans. These criteria
11 shall: (a) include, but not be limited to, formula and guidelines
12 for allocating available state funds for in-service training to
13 local school districts; (b) require that a portion of the plans be
14 devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff development
15 training for beginning teachers within that local school district
16 and for no other purpose; * * * (c) require that a portion of the
17 school district's in-service training for administrators and
18 teachers be dedicated to the application and utilization of
19 various disciplinary techniques; and (d) require that at least one
20 (1) of the school district's in-service staff development
21 workshops for administrators and teachers be dedicated to
22 sensitivity training in order to prepare such persons to function
23 effectively in a culturally diverse school environment. The board
24 shall each year make recommendations to the Legislature concerning
25 the amount of funds which shall be appropriated for this purpose.

26 (2) Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, school
27 districts shall not be required to submit staff development plans
28 to the Commission on School Accreditation for approval. However,

29 any school district accredited at Level 1 or Level 2 shall
30 include, as a part of any required corrective action plan,
31 provisions to address staff development in accordance with State
32 Board of Education requirements. All school districts, unless
33 specifically exempt from this section, must maintain on file staff
34 development plans as required under this section. The plan shall
35 have been prepared by a district committee appointed by the
36 district superintendent and consisting of teachers,
37 administrators, school board members, and lay people, and it shall
38 have been approved by the district superintendent.

39 (3) In order to insure that teachers are not overburdened
40 with paperwork and written reports, local school districts and
41 the State Board of Education shall take such steps as may be
42 necessary to further the reduction of paperwork requirements on
43 teachers.

44 (4) If any school district meets Level 4 or 5 accreditation
45 standards, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may
46 exempt such school district from the provisions of this section.

47 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 1999.