

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 203

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DESIGNATE TWO IN-SERVICE STAFF
3 DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES; AND FOR
4 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
14 be devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff
15 development training for beginning teachers within that local
16 school district and for no other purpose; and (c) require that a
17 portion of the school district's in-service training for
18 administrators and teachers be dedicated to the application and
19 utilization of various disciplinary techniques. The board shall
20 each year make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the
21 amount of funds which shall be appropriated for this purpose.

22 (2) Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, school
23 districts shall not be required to submit staff development plans
24 to the Commission on School Accreditation for approval. However,
25 any school district accredited at Level 1 or Level 2 shall
26 include, as a part of any required corrective action plan,
27 provisions to address staff development in accordance with State
28 Board of Education requirements. All school districts, unless

29 specifically exempt from this section, must maintain on file staff
30 development plans as required under this section. The plan shall
31 have been prepared by a district committee appointed by the
32 district superintendent and consisting of teachers,
33 administrators, school board members, and lay people, and it shall
34 have been approved by the district superintendent.

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

40 (4) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, each school
41 district shall provide, as a component of its comprehensive
42 in-service staff development plan, training to administrators,
43 teachers and nonlicensed school personnel in the application and
44 utilization of appropriate culturally specific behavior management
45 techniques. The school board shall designate two (2) existing
46 in-service training days for the study of behavior management
47 techniques. In developing a training program on such behavior
48 management techniques, school districts are encouraged to solicit
49 input from parents, local law enforcement agencies, youth court
50 counselors and any other available resource groups dedicated to
51 working with children and youth.

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

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