

By: Representative Frierson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 694  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-201, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO CLARIFY THAT MENTOR TEACHERS MAY BE RETIRED TEACHERS MEETING  
3 CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-211, MISSISSIPPI  
4 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO COMPENSATE  
5 MENTOR TEACHERS FOR ADDITIONAL DUTIES PERFORMED UNDER THE  
6 BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAM, TO GRANT ADDITIONAL RELEASE  
7 TIME FOR SUCH MENTOR TEACHERS AND TO EMPLOY SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS  
8 FOR ASSUMING THE REGULAR TEACHING DUTIES OF MENTOR TEACHERS; AND  
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 37-9-201, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 37-9-201. As used in Sections 37-9-201 through 37-9-213:

14 (a) "Beginning teacher" means a teacher who:

15 (i) Possesses a teaching license issued by the  
16 Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification  
17 and Licensure and Development;

18 (ii) Is employed at least half time, primarily as  
19 a classroom teacher, by a school district; and

20 (iii) Has taught fewer than ninety (90)  
21 consecutive days, or one hundred eighty (180) days total, as a  
22 licensed teacher in any public school.

23 (b) "District" means any local school district.

24 (c) "Formal assistance" means a program provided by a  
25 mentor teacher to a beginning teacher that includes, but is not  
26 limited to, direct classroom observation and consultation;  
27 assistance in instructional planning and preparation; support in  
28 implementation and delivery of classroom instruction; and other  
29 assistance intended to enhance the professional performance and

30 development of the beginning teacher.

31 (d) "Mentor teacher" means a teacher who:

32 (i) Possesses a standard teaching personnel  
33 service or administrative license issued by the Commission on  
34 Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure  
35 and Development;

36 (ii) At the time of selection, is employed \* \* \*  
37 under contract primarily as a classroom teacher by a public school  
38 district or is retired from a public school district;

39 (iii) Has successfully taught for three (3) or  
40 more years as a licensed teacher in any public school;

41 (iv) Has been selected and trained as described in  
42 Section 37-9-211; and

43 (v) Has demonstrated mastery of teaching skills  
44 and subject matter knowledge.

45 (e) "Teacher" means a licensed employee of a local  
46 school district who has direct responsibility for instruction,  
47 coordination of educational programs or supervision of teachers  
48 and who is compensated for services from public funds.

49 SECTION 2. Section 37-9-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
50 amended as follows:

51 37-9-211. (1) The selection, nature and extent of duties of  
52 mentor teachers shall be determined by the school district. The  
53 following guidelines shall apply:

54 (a) No teacher shall be designated as a mentor teacher  
55 unless willing to perform in that role;

56 (b) No mentor teacher shall participate in the  
57 evaluation of beginning teachers;

58 (c) Each mentor teacher shall complete successfully a  
59 training workshop provided or approved by the Mississippi Teacher  
60 Center prior to participating in the beginning teacher support  
61 program; and

62 (d) If a mentor teacher receives additional release  
63 time to support a beginning teacher, it is expected that the total  
64 workload of other teachers regularly employed by the school  
65 district should not increase in any substantial manner.

66 (2) A district may: (a) compensate mentor teachers from any

67 available funds for additional duties to support a beginning  
68 teacher which are performed after regular school hours; (b) grant  
69 additional release time to mentor teachers for additional duties  
70 to support a beginning teacher which are performed after regular  
71 school hours; and (c) employ and compensate substitute teachers  
72 from any available funds for assuming the regular teaching duties  
73 of mentor teachers who are participating in the beginning teacher  
74 program.

75 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
76 and after July 1, 1999.