

By: Representative Martinson

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 920

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI EXCELLENT READING GRANT
2 PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
3 HELP PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL IN READING; TO REQUIRE THE
4 DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH GRANTS UNDER THE EXCELLENT READING PROGRAM
5 FOR SCHOOLS INSTITUTING A READING PROGRAM USING METHODOLOGY
6 RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN
7 DEVELOPMENT, SCHOOLS USING READING PROGRAMS BASED ON RELIABLE,
8 REPLICABLE RESEARCH AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE, AND
9 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM WHICH DEMONSTRATE
10 IMPROVEMENTS IN THEIR FOURTH GRADE READING SCORES; TO REQUIRE THE
11 DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE EXCELLENT READING
12 GRANTS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A GRANT
13 PROGRAM FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS TEACHING EARLY EDUCATION
14 READING METHODS BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE; AND FOR
15 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Excellent
18 Reading Grant Program to be administered by the State Department
19 of Education for the purpose of helping students in the public
20 schools in Mississippi to excel in reading. Under the program,
21 the department shall establish grants using federal funding and
22 any other available funds to be awarded to public schools in order
23 to encourage, aid and reward schools in teaching reading to
24 children in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3.

25 (2) In order to assist elementary schools in instituting a
26 reading program for their students using methodology recommended
27 by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
28 (NICHD), the State Department of Education shall establish an
29 incentive start-up grant under the Excellent Reading Program.
30 The incentive start-up grant shall be available to those schools
31 implementing programs of research-based reading instruction in
32 Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 consisting of the following:

- 33 (a) Direct systematic intensive instruction in phonemic
34 awareness;
- 35 (b) Direct systematic, intensive, explicit instruction
36 in sound-symbol relationships (phonics);
- 37 (c) Ample practice in decodable vocabulary-controlled
38 texts (texts in which ninety-five percent (95%) of the words are
39 decodable using previously taught sound-symbol association and
40 word attack skills);
- 41 (d) Direct systematic intensive instruction in the
42 morphologic structure of English;
- 43 (e) Direct systematic intensive instruction in word
44 attack skills;
- 45 (f) Direct systematic intensive instruction in
46 spelling;
- 47 (g) Direct systematic intensive instruction in
48 vocabulary development; and
- 49 (h) Direct systematic intensive instruction in grammar,
50 punctuation and capitalization.

51 In addition to defraying the cost of implementing one or more
52 of the programs of research-based reading instruction, the
53 incentive start-up grant may be used to provide: training to
54 teachers in the methodology of teaching reading using reliable,
55 replicable research; additional assistance to students who are not
56 reading ready and mature at the end of kindergarten; programs
57 designed to assist parents in becoming their child's first and
58 most important teacher; and additional assistance to students in
59 Grades 1-3 who are experiencing difficulty in reading.

60 Incentive start-up grants shall be awarded to schools based
61 on the school's average daily attendance. The minimum amount of
62 such grants shall be Sixty-five Dollars (\$65.00) per student in
63 average daily attendance. However, if insufficient funds are
64 available to award grants to all schools applying for the
65 incentive start-up grant, the department shall pro rate the grants

to those schools determined to be eligible by the department.

(3) Beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, the State Department of Education shall award grants under the Excellent Reading Program to elementary schools that are using, in their entirety, reading programs based on reliable, replicable research and the recommendations of NICHD, including Kindergarten-level phonemic awareness screening and reading readiness courses. The amount of such grants shall be no less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per school. However, if insufficient funds are available to award grants under this subsection to all eligible schools, the department shall pro rate the grants to those schools determined to be eligible by the department.

(4) Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, the State Department of Education shall award additional grants to those schools participating in the Excellent Reading Program which demonstrate annual incremental improvements in their fourth grade reading scores, measured against such test scores for the 1998-1999 school year.

(5) The State Department of Education annually shall apply for any available federal funds, including funds under GOALS 2000, which may be used to provide grants under the Mississippi Excellent Reading Grant Program.

(6) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration of the Mississippi Excellent Reading Grant Program.

SECTION 2. The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development, shall establish a grant program under which educator preparation programs in the state which teach early education reading methods based on recommendations of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), as listed in subsection (2) of Section 1 of House Bill No._____, 1999 Regular Session are awarded financial grants. The board

99 shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of
100 such grants, including criteria that educator preparation
101 programs must satisfy in order to be eligible for such grants.
102 Grants awarded under this section shall be made exclusively from
103 federal funding made available to states for the purpose of
104 improving reading. The board annually shall apply for any
105 available federal funds which may be used to provide grants under
106 this section.

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