

By: Representatives Scott (80th), Bailey,
Banks, Broomfield, Evans, Gibbs, Middleton,
Myers, Smith (27th), Thomas, Thornton, Watson

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1383

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "THREE-FOR-THREE TEACHER RELOCATION
2 PROGRAM"; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAKE ANNUAL
3 GRANTS TO LICENSED TEACHERS WHO RELOCATE IN ORDER TO TEACH IN A
4 CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE GEOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE STATE; TO
5 PROVIDE CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AND PENALTIES
6 FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
7 TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS
8 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE
9 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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11 SECTION 1. (1) The Legislature finds that there exists a
12 critical shortage of teachers in many areas and communities in
13 Mississippi. It is declared to be the intention of the
14 Legislature to attract and retain qualified teachers by awarding
15 incentive relocation grants to licensed teachers declaring an
16 intention to serve in a critical teacher shortage geographic
17 section of the state and who actually teach in such geographic
18 area.

19 (2) There is established the "Three-for-Three Teacher
20 Relocation Program."

21 (3) To the extent of appropriations available, licensed
22 teachers who have expressed in writing a present intention to
23 teach in a critical teacher shortage geographic section of the
24 state, as designated on an annual basis by the State Board of
25 Education, shall be eligible for an annual relocation grant of
26 Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each of three (3) years.
27 To be eligible to receive the annual grant, recipients shall be
28 required to teach in a school located in such critical teacher
29 shortage geographic area for at least seventy-eight (78) school
30 days during each of the two (2) school semesters immediately after

31 the receipt of the grant. No recipient shall receive more than
32 Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) in the aggregate from this
33 program.

34 (4) Persons failing to meet teaching requirements in any
35 required semester shall immediately be in breach of contract and
36 become liable to the State Board of Education for the amount of
37 the annual grant received for the current year, with interest
38 accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach
39 occurs, except in the case of a deferral of debt for cause by the
40 board, after which period of deferral, teaching duties required
41 hereunder will be resumed. If the claim for repayment of such
42 grant is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection after
43 default, then the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount
44 equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

45 (5) Failure to repay any grant and interest that becomes due
46 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching license
47 by the State Department of Education.

48 (6) All monies repaid to the State Board of Education
49 hereunder shall be added to the appropriations made for purposes
50 of this section, and such appropriations shall not lapse.

51 (7) The State Board of Education shall promulgate
52 regulations necessary for the proper administration of this
53 section.

54 (8) If insufficient funds are available for requested grants
55 to qualified applicants during any fiscal year, priority
56 consideration shall be given to persons receiving previous grants
57 and participating in the program.

58 (9) The State Board of Education shall make an annual report
59 to the Legislature enumerating the relocation grants awarded, the
60 names of persons to whom granted and the teaching location of
61 applicants.

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