

By: Senator(s) Ferris

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2194

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT ANY UNUSED LEAVE CREDITED TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
3 OFFICERS WHEN THEY WERE EMPLOYED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS SHALL BE  
4 CARRIED OVER AND CREDITED TO SUCH PERSONS IF THEY REMAINED  
5 EMPLOYED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND TO REVISE THE  
6 STATUTORY SCALE FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE  
7 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 37-13-89, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 37-13-89. (1) In each school district within the state,  
12 there shall be employed the number of school attendance officers  
13 determined by the Office of Compulsory School Attendance  
14 Enforcement to be necessary to adequately enforce the provisions  
15 of the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law; however, this  
16 number shall not exceed one hundred fifty-three (153) school  
17 attendance officers at any time. From and after July 1, 1998, all  
18 school attendance officers employed pursuant to this section shall  
19 be employees of the State Department of Education. The State  
20 Department of Education shall employ all persons employed as  
21 school attendance officers by district attorneys before July 1,  
22 1998, and shall assign them to school attendance responsibilities  
23 in the school district in which they were employed before July 1,  
24 1998. The first twelve (12) months of employment for each school  
25 attendance officer shall be the probationary period of state  
26 service. Any unused leave credited to such school attendance  
27 officers when they were employed by district attorneys shall be  
28 carried over and credited to such persons if they remain employed  
29 as school attendance officers by the State Department of

30 Education.

31 (2) Each school attendance officer shall possess a college  
32 degree with a major in a behavioral science or a related field or  
33 shall have no less than three (3) years combined actual experience  
34 as a school teacher, school administrator, law enforcement officer  
35 possessing such degree, and/or social worker; however, these  
36 requirements shall not apply to persons employed as school  
37 attendance officers before January 1, 1987. School attendance  
38 officers also shall satisfy any additional requirements that may  
39 be established by the State Personnel Board for the position of  
40 school attendance officer.

41 (3) It shall be the duty of each school attendance officer  
42 to:

43 (a) Cooperate with any public agency to locate and  
44 identify all compulsory-school-age children who are not attending  
45 school;

46 (b) Cooperate with all courts of competent  
47 jurisdiction;

48 (c) Investigate all cases of nonattendance and unlawful  
49 absences by compulsory-school-age children not enrolled in a  
50 nonpublic school;

51 (d) Provide appropriate counseling to encourage all  
52 school-age children to attend school until they have completed  
53 high school;

54 (e) Attempt to secure the provision of social or  
55 welfare services that may be required to enable any child to  
56 attend school;

57 (f) Contact the home or place of residence of a  
58 compulsory-school-age child and any other place in which the  
59 officer is likely to find any compulsory-school-age child when the  
60 child is absent from school during school hours without a valid  
61 written excuse from school officials, and when the child is found,  
62 the officer shall notify the parents and school officials as to  
63 where the child was physically located;

64 (g) Contact promptly the home of each  
65 compulsory-school-age child in the school district within the  
66 officer's jurisdiction who is not enrolled in school or is not in  
67 attendance at public school and is without a valid written excuse

68 from school officials; if no valid reason is found for the  
69 nonenrollment or absence from the school, the school attendance  
70 officer shall give written notice to the parent, guardian or  
71 custodian of the requirement for the child's enrollment or  
72 attendance;

73 (h) Collect and maintain information concerning  
74 absenteeism, dropouts and other attendance-related problems, as  
75 may be required by law or the Office of Compulsory School  
76 Attendance Enforcement; and

77 (i) Perform all other duties relating to compulsory  
78 school attendance established by the State Department of Education  
79 or district school attendance supervisor, or both.

80 (4) While engaged in the performance of his duties, each  
81 school attendance officer shall carry on his person a badge  
82 identifying him as a school attendance officer under the Office of  
83 Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement of the State Department  
84 of Education and an identification card designed by the State  
85 Superintendent of Public Education and issued by the school  
86 attendance officer supervisor. Neither the badge nor the  
87 identification card shall bear the name of any elected public  
88 official.

89 (5) From and after July 1, 1999, the salary scale for school  
90 attendance officers shall be as follows:

91 (a) For school attendance officers holding a bachelor's  
92 degree or any other attendance officer who does not hold such a  
93 degree, the annual salary shall be based on years of experience as  
94 a school attendance officer or related field of service or  
95 employment, no less than as follows:

96	Years of Experience	Salary
97	0 - 4 years	<u>\$21,030.00</u>
98	5 - 8 years	<u>23,060.00</u>
99	9 - 12 years	<u>24,690.00</u>
100	13 - 16 years	<u>26,320.00</u>
101	Over 17 years	<u>27,940.00</u>

102 (b) For school attendance officers holding a license as  
103 a social worker, the annual salary shall be based on years of  
104 experience as a school attendance officer or related field of  
105 service or employment, no less than as follows:

106	Years of Experience	Salary
107	0 - 4 years	<u>\$22,100.00</u>
108	5 - 8 years	<u>24,560.00</u>
109	9 - 12 years	<u>26,530.00</u>
110	13 - 16 years	<u>28,500.00</u>
111	17 - 20 years	<u>30,470.00</u>
112	Over 21 years	<u>32,440.00</u>

113 (c) For school attendance officers holding a master's  
114 degree in a behavioral science or a related field, the annual  
115 salary shall be based on years of experience as a school  
116 attendance officer or related field of service or employment, no  
117 less than as follows:

118	Years of Experience	Salary
119	0 - 4 years	<u>\$22,960.00</u>
120	5 - 8 years	<u>25,680.00</u>
121	9 - 12 years	<u>27,870.00</u>
122	13 - 16 years	<u>30,050.00</u>
123	17 - 20 years	<u>32,230.00</u>
124	Over 21 years	<u>34,420.00</u>

125 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
126 and after its passage.