

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Carlton

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2400

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-159-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ESTABLISH THE "THREE-FOR-THREE TEACHER RELOCATION PROGRAM"; TO
3 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAKE ANNUAL GRANTS TO
4 CERTIFICATED TEACHERS WHO RELOCATE IN ORDER TO TEACH IN A CRITICAL
5 TEACHER SHORTAGE GEOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE STATE; TO PROVIDE
6 CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AND PENALTIES FOR
7 BREACH OF CONTRACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
8 PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS
9 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE
10 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
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12 SECTION 1. Section 37-159-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:

14 37-159-5. (1) The State Board of Education shall prescribe
15 rules and regulations which, subject to available appropriations,
16 allow for reimbursement to the state licensed teachers, from both
17 in-state and out-of-state, who enter into a contract for
18 employment in a school district situated within a geographical
19 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
20 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, for the
21 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation
22 of the teacher to a different geographical area than that in which
23 the teacher resides before entering into such contract. In order
24 to be eligible for the reimbursement, the teacher must apply to
25 the local district and the district must obtain the prior approval
26 from the department for reimbursement before the relocation
27 occurs. If the reimbursement is approved, the department shall
28 provide funds to the school district to reimburse the teacher an
29 amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the
30 documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating,

31 including the expense of any professional moving company or
32 persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles
33 or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for state employees
34 under Section 25-3-41 if the teacher used his personal vehicle or
35 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated
36 with the relocation in accordance with the department's
37 established rules and regulations. No teacher may be reimbursed
38 for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1)
39 occasion.

40 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
41 actual residence to which the teacher relocates to be within the
42 boundaries of the school district which has executed a contract
43 for employment with the teacher or within the boundaries of the
44 area designated by the State Board of Education as the critical
45 teacher shortage area in order for the teacher to be eligible for
46 reimbursement for his moving expenses. However, teachers must
47 relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi.

48 (2) There is hereby established the "Three-for-Three Teacher
49 Relocation Program." To the extent of appropriations available,
50 certificated teachers who have expressed in writing a present
51 intention to teach in a critical teacher shortage geographic
52 section of the state, as designated on an annual basis by the
53 State Board of Education, shall be eligible for an annual
54 relocation grant of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each of
55 three (3) years, in addition to the reimbursement of relocation
56 expenses authorized under subsection (1). To be eligible to
57 receive the annual grant, recipients shall be required to teach in
58 a school located in such critical teacher shortage geographic area
59 for at least seventy-eight (78) school days during each of the two
60 (2) school semesters immediately after the receipt of the grant.
61 No recipient shall receive more than Nine Thousand Dollars
62 (\$9,000.00) in the aggregate from this program.

63 Persons failing to meet teaching requirements in any required
64 semester shall immediately be in breach of contract and become
65 liable to the State Board of Education for the amount of the
66 annual grant received for the current year, with interest accruing
67 at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs,

68 except in the case of a deferral of debt for cause by the board,
69 after which period of deferral, teaching duties required hereunder
70 will be resumed. If the claim for repayment of such grant is
71 placed in the hands of an attorney for collection after default,
72 then the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to
73 a reasonable attorney's fee.

74 Failure to repay any grant and interest that becomes due
75 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching
76 certificate by the State Department of Education.

77 All monies repaid to the State Board of Education hereunder
78 shall be added to the appropriations made for purposes of this
79 section, and said appropriations shall not lapse.

80 The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
81 necessary for the proper administration of this section.

82 If insufficient funds are available for requested grants to
83 qualified applicants during any fiscal year, priority
84 consideration shall be given to persons receiving previous grants
85 and participating in the program.

86 The State Board of Education shall make an annual report to
87 the Legislature enumerating the relocation grants awarded, the
88 names of persons to whom granted and the teaching location of
89 applicants.

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