

By: Senator(s) Hall

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2497

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS SHALL INCLUDE 75
3 HOURS OF STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE OR AN EQUIVALENT PROGRAM
4 APPROVED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
6 MISSISSIPPI:

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8 SECTION 1. Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
11 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
12 minimum:

13 (a) Mastery of the minimum performance standards in
14 reading, writing and mathematics skills, utilized in everyday life
15 situations, measured in a functional literacy examination
16 developed and administered by the State Board of Education in a
17 manner prescribed after a public hearing.

18 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
19 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
20 school board.

21 (c) Student Service. Students shall complete one of
22 the following:

23 (i) Seventy-five (75) hours of student volunteer
24 community service that includes preparation, action, and
25 reflection components, which, at the discretion of the local
26 school board, may begin during the middle grades; or

27 (ii) An equivalent locally designed program in
28 student volunteer community service that has been approved by the

29 State Superintendent of Education.

30 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
31 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
32 in a form prescribed by the state board.

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