

By: Senator(s) Farris, Ross

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2508
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL SALARY SUPPLEMENT AND A ONE-TIME
3 PROCESS REIMBURSEMENT TO SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNSELORS ACQUIRING THE
4 NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS' ENDORSEMENT AS A NATIONAL
5 CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR AND TO SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND
6 AUDIOLOGISTS ACQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE OF CLINICAL COMPETENCE FROM
7 THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION; TO PROVIDE THAT
8 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PAY FRINGE BENEFITS ON THE
9 SALARY SUPPLEMENTS AWARDED UNDER THIS STATUTE, AND TO AUTHORIZE
10 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR ANY PRIVATE ENTITY TO PAY THE PROCESS
11 COST FOR ACQUIRING SUCH NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION WHICH SHALL
12 BE REIMBURSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; TO CLARIFY THE
13 ELIGIBILITY DATE FOR SUCH SALARY SUPPLEMENTS; AND FOR RELATED
14 PURPOSES.

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
17 amended as follows:

18 37-19-7. (1) The allowance in the minimum education program
19 for teachers' salaries in each county and separate school district
20 shall be determined and paid in accordance with the scale for
21 teachers' salaries as provided in this subsection for the number
22 of teachers employed not in excess of the number of teacher units
23 allotted. For teachers holding the following types of licenses or
24 the equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education, and
25 the following number of years of teaching experience, the scale
26 shall be as follows:

1999-2000 School Year

and School Years Thereafter

Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

30	AAAA.....	\$24,445.00
31	AAA.....	23,595.00
32	AA.....	22,745.00
33	A.....	21,695.00

34	25 or More Years of Teaching Experience	
35	AAAA.....	\$25,445.00
36	AAA.....	24,595.00
37	AA.....	23,745.00
38	A.....	22,695.00

39 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
40 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
41 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
42 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
43 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
44 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority
45 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
46 establish, administer and maintain the system.

47 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
48 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
49 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
50 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
51 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
52 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
53 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
54 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
55 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
56 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered
57 a part of the amount of individual local supplement.

58 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
59 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
60 Six Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$655.00) for each year of teaching
61 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
62 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

63 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
64 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
65 Five Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$590.00) for each year of teaching
66 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
67 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

68 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
69 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Five
70 Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$520.00) for each year of teaching
71 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
72 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

73 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
74 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
75 Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$425.00) for each year of teaching
76 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
77 person shall have twenty-one (21) years of teaching experience.

78 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
79 in establishing the salary allotment for the teachers for each
80 year shall be determined by the type of valid teacher's license
81 issued to those teachers on or before October 1 of the current
82 school year.

83 (2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual
84 salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars
85 (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other
86 compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

87 (i) * * * Any licensed teacher who has met the
88 requirements and acquired a Master Teacher certificate from the
89 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is
90 employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education
91 as a teacher and not as an administrator * * *. * * * In the
92 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school year, such teacher shall submit
93 documentation to the State Department of Education that the
94 certificate was received prior to April 15 in order to be eligible
95 for the full salary supplement in the current school year. In the
96 2001-2002 school year and in school years thereafter, such teacher
97 shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education
98 that the certificate was received prior to October 15 in order to
99 be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
100 year, or the teacher shall submit such documentation to the State
101 Department of Education prior to February 15 in order to be

102 eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
103 second term of the school year.

104 (ii) From and after July 1, 1999, any licensed
105 school counselor who has met the requirements and acquired a
106 National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) endorsement from the
107 National Board of Certified Counselors and who is employed by a
108 local school board or the State Board of Education as a counselor
109 and not as an administrator. Such licensed school counselor shall
110 submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the
111 endorsement was received prior to October 15 in order to be
112 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
113 year, or the licensed school counselor shall submit such
114 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
115 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
116 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
117 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
118 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
119 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
120 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors,
121 and any school counselor receiving the salary supplement will be
122 required to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under
123 item (i) of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such
124 salary supplement.

125 (iii) From and after July 1, 1999, any licensed
126 speech-language pathologist and audiologist who has met the
127 requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence
128 from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and who is
129 employed by a local school board. Such licensed speech-language
130 pathologist and audiologist shall submit documentation to the
131 State Department of Education that the certificate or endorsement
132 was received prior to October 15 in order to be eligible for the
133 full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed
134 speech-language pathologist and audiologist shall submit such
135 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to

136 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
137 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
138 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
139 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
140 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
141 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school speech
142 pathologists and audiologists, and any school speech pathologist
143 and audiologist receiving the salary supplement will be required
144 to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under item (i)
145 of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such salary
146 supplement.

147 (b) An employee shall be reimbursed one (1) time for
148 the actual cost of completing the process of acquiring the
149 certificate or endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for
150 postgraduate courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
151 for a school counselor or speech-language pathologist and
152 audiologist, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in
153 the award of the certificate or endorsement. A local school
154 district or any private individual or entity may pay the cost of
155 completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement
156 for any employee of the school district described under paragraph
157 (a), and the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
158 school district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the
159 process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement.
160 If a private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing
161 the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an
162 employee, the local school district may agree to directly
163 reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the
164 employee.

165 (c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process
166 reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid
167 directly by the State Department of Education to the local school
168 district and shall be in addition to its minimum education program
169 allotments and not a part thereof in accordance with regulations

170 promulgated by the State Board of Education, and subject to
171 appropriation by the Legislature. Local school districts shall
172 not reduce the local supplement paid to any employee receiving
173 such salary supplement, and the employee shall receive any local
174 supplement to which employees with similar training and experience
175 otherwise are entitled.

176 (d) The State Department of Education may not pay any
177 process reimbursement to a school district for an employee who
178 does not complete the certification or endorsement process
179 required to be eligible for the certificate or endorsement. If an
180 employee for whom such cost has been paid in full or in part by a
181 local school district or private individual or entity fails to
182 complete the certification or endorsement process, the employee
183 shall be liable to the school district or individual or entity for
184 all amounts paid by the school district or individual or entity on
185 behalf of that employee toward his or her certificate or
186 endorsement.

187 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
188 and after June 30, 1999.