

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2777

1 AN ACT TO CREATE SECTION 37-143-12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE GRADUATE DEGREE TEACHER EDUCATION INCENTIVE LOANS TO  
3 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS AGREEING TO TEACH IN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
4 OR STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING; TO AUTHORIZE STIPENDS  
5 FOR SUCH STUDENTS IN GRADUATE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO  
6 PROVIDE FOR THE CONVERSION OF SUCH LOANS INTO INTEREST-FREE  
7 SCHOLARSHIPS BY PERFORMING SUCH TEACHING SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED  
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section  
11 37-143-12, Mississippi Code of 1972:

12 37-143-12. There is hereby created a program for graduate  
13 study in teacher education. Scholarships are hereby established  
14 and shall be allocated to graduate degree students who: (a) have  
15 been employed as certified teachers in a public school district in  
16 Mississippi for not less than three (3) school years, or have been  
17 employed as a university instructor in a Mississippi institution  
18 of higher learning for not less than three (3) academic years; (b)  
19 are approved by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
20 Higher Learning; and (c) contract with the board of trustees and  
21 its successors in office, obligating themselves to pursue to  
22 completion the course of study agreed upon, and immediately  
23 following the completion of such work, to spend a period of time,  
24 equal to the period of study provided under the scholarship, in  
25 teaching in any public school district or institution of higher  
26 learning in Mississippi, as approved by the board of trustees.  
27 Such period of service, after completion of study under a  
28 scholarship, shall in no event be less than one (1) year.

29 In addition to a scholarship, any such student may be

30 allocated a loan not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)  
31 per month for each month of full-time study in a graduate teacher  
32 education program. The repayment of the principal and interest of  
33 such loans shall be eligible for deferment during attendance as a  
34 full-time student in an approved program for graduate study in an  
35 accredited school of teacher education. For any student who  
36 receives this loan, the student's contract with the board of  
37 trustees shall obligate the student, immediately following  
38 completion of the course of study, to repay the loan by teaching  
39 for not less than two (2) years at any public school district or  
40 institution of higher learning in Mississippi, as approved by the  
41 board of trustees. Such teaching service shall convert the loan  
42 to an interest-free scholarship, and discharge the same, on the  
43 basis of two (2) years of service for one-year's loan amount, or  
44 the appropriate proportion of the total outstanding balance of  
45 principal and interest, all as established by rule and regulation  
46 of the board of trustees. Any such student who fails to complete  
47 all of the teaching service obligation shall be liable to the  
48 board of trustees for the remaining balance of the principal and  
49 interest that remains undischarged.

50 The board of trustees shall establish such rules and  
51 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the  
52 purposes and intent of this section.

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