

**\*\*\*Pending\*\*\***

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill NO. 2121**

**By Representative(s) Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

6        SECTION 1. The local school boards of the public school  
7 districts, in their discretion, may develop and implement, at the  
8 beginning of the 1999-2000 school year, a comprehensive program  
9 for character education in Grades K-12. The definition of the  
10 character traits chosen by the school district for implementation  
11 shall reflect and be in keeping with both the spirit and the  
12 letter of the following founding documents: the Mississippi  
13 Constitution of 1890; the Constitution of the United States of  
14 America; the Declaration of Independence; and state and federal  
15 law. A public school may not define or teach character or  
16 character traits in any manner that might promote or encourage  
17 students to participate in conduct that would violate any state or  
18 federal law.

19        SECTION 2. Assessment of the students' understanding of the  
20 character traits chosen to be taught in public school shall be  
21 limited to and must reflect the material taught in the classroom.  
22 Students shall not be evaluated in any way as to whether or not  
23 the students evidence a specific character trait in their own  
24 lives.

25        SECTION 3. The State Board of Education shall review the  
26 proposed character education programs of the individual school

27 districts to ascertain if the programs comply with the criteria  
28 set forth in Section 1 of this act. Review of the programs shall  
29 not exceed a time period of sixty (60) days. If a review extends  
30 beyond this time period, the proposal will be deemed in compliance  
31 with the law.

32 If the proposed character education program is rejected, the  
33 State Board of Education shall set forth in writing the specific  
34 areas of objection. These objections must be based on and limited  
35 to the following criteria: the definition of the character traits  
36 chosen by the school district for implementation shall reflect and  
37 be in keeping with both the spirit and letter of our founding  
38 documents; no instruction shall promote or encourage participation  
39 in any conduct that would violate existing state or federal law;  
40 and no student shall be assessed or evaluated as to whether or not  
41 the student evidences a specific character trait in his or her own  
42 life.

43 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
44 and after July 1, 1999.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DEVELOP AND  
2 IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE K-12 PROGRAM FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION; TO  
3 REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICTS'  
4 PROPOSED CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.