

By: Eads, Brown, Martinson, Whittington,  
Barbour, Chism, Creel, Formby, Harrison,  
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(15th), Moore (60th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 948

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 ESTABLISH MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL  
3 SCHOOL BOARDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school  
8 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount  
9 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)  
10 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in  
11 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as  
12 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the  
13 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which  
14 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods  
15 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall  
16 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible  
17 for any state employee group insurance, retirement or other fringe  
18 benefits. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary  
19 expenses and mileage in attending meetings of the school board.  
20 In addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for  
21 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of  
22 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board  
23 training session or at regional and national education meetings,  
24 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board  
25 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be  
26 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this

27 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section  
28 25-3-41.

29 Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by  
30 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school  
31 district involved against the funds available for payment of the  
32 administrative expense of the district.

33 (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent  
34 (20%) or more of the regularly scheduled meetings of the school  
35 board during one (1) calendar year, the member must reimburse the  
36 school district that portion of the total salary paid to the  
37 member that year which is proportionate to the number of regularly  
38 scheduled meetings missed by the member in relation to the total  
39 number of such meetings held during that year. For purposes of  
40 this subsection, consideration may be given only to regularly  
41 scheduled meetings of which public notice is required.

42 (b) A school board member who is required to reimburse  
43 a school district for missed meetings under this subsection shall  
44 enter into an agreement with the superintendent of the school  
45 district for the payment of the total amount owed the school  
46 district by the member. The agreement may provide for the payment  
47 to be made in a lump sum by a date certain or in partial payments  
48 according to a payment schedule set forth in the agreement. If  
49 the school board member fails to enter into this agreement or pay  
50 the total amount owed the school district before March 1 of the  
51 year immediately succeeding the year in which the meetings were  
52 missed, the member may not be paid any compensation or expense  
53 reimbursement authorized under subsection (1) of this section  
54 until the total amount owed the district has been withheld.

55 (c) Before February 1 of each year, the president of  
56 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board  
57 of Education containing the names of any members of the school  
58 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the regularly  
59 scheduled school board meetings during the preceding calendar  
60 year.

61 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
62 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
63 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the

64 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
65 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
66 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
67 extended.

68 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
69 and after January 1, 2001, if it is effectuated on or before that  
70 date under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended  
71 and extended. If it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
72 Rights Act of 1965, as amended or extended, after January 1, 2001,  
73 this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the date  
74 it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of  
75 1965, as amended and extended.