

By: Representative Ishee

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 60

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN  
 2 THE UNIFORM STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT TESTING PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE LOCAL  
 3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE TESTING REQUIREMENT TO  
 4 PARENTS OF SUCH CHILDREN WHOSE GRADE LEVEL IS BEING TESTED DURING  
 5 THAT SCHOOL YEAR AND TO ACCOMMODATE HOME SCHOOLED CHILDREN DURING  
 6 THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TESTS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF  
 7 EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A LIST OF ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS THAT MAY BE  
 8 TAKEN BY HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS IN LIEU OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN  
 9 THE STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
 12 (4) of this section, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year,  
 13 each compulsory-school-age child who is being educated in a home  
 14 instruction program shall participate in the uniform statewide  
 15 assessment testing program required under Section 37-16-3 in order  
 16 to verify that the student is performing at or above the minimum  
 17 performance standards approved by the State Board of Education for  
 18 the student's appropriate grade level. For the purposes of this  
 19 section, "appropriate grade level" means the grade in which public  
 20 school students typically are enrolled when such students are the  
 21 same age as the child in the home instruction program and not the  
 22 grade level at which the child in the home instruction program  
 23 purportedly is performing.

24 (2) Each local school district shall provide notice of the  
 25 testing requirement established under this section to the parent,  
 26 guardian or custodian of each compulsory-school-age child in a  
 27 home instruction program who is the same age as the students  
 28 typically enrolled in a grade in which the uniform tests are being  
 29 administered during that school year. To assist the school  
 30 district in providing this notice, before September 30 of each



31 year, the school attendance officer shall provide a copy of the  
32 certificate of enrollment for each compulsory-school-age child in  
33 a home instruction program residing in the school district to the  
34 school district superintendent. Based upon the age of the child  
35 as reflected on the certificate of enrollment, the school district  
36 promptly shall notify, in writing, the appropriate parents,  
37 guardians and custodians of the testing requirements, the dates  
38 and times that the tests will be administered in the school  
39 district and the location to which a child in a home instruction  
40 program must report to participate in the test. The notice also  
41 must include a listing of those tests or assessment instruments  
42 that the State Board of Education recognizes as alternative means  
43 to verify that the student is performing at or above the minimum  
44 performance standards approved by the State Board of Education for  
45 the student's appropriate grade level.

46 (3) School districts shall provide appropriate  
47 accommodations for the participation of the compulsory-school-age  
48 children in home instruction programs in the uniform statewide  
49 assessment testing program.

50 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt a list of tests  
51 and assessment instruments that the board recognizes as valid,  
52 alternative means to establish the performance level of a student  
53 in a home instruction program. A parent, guardian or custodian of  
54 a compulsory-school-age child in a home instruction program may  
55 submit documentation of the child's results on these tests or  
56 assessments to the local school board in lieu of the child  
57 participating in the statewide assessment program.

58 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2001.

