By: Representative Cameron

To: Education; Appropriations

### HOUSE BILL NO. 69

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PERFORMANCE PAY PLAN FOR LICENSED 1 TEACHERS; TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE LEVELS OF 2 TEACHING LICENSES TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSION ON TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR EDUCATION, CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE AND DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR 3 4 5 6 OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE BY TEACHERS UNDER THE PERFORMANCE PAY PLAN; TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE PAY 7 PLAN FOR PRESENTLY LICENSED TEACHERS AND PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS; TO PROVIDE EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS AND CRITERIA FOR 8 9 EVALUATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE TERMS 10 11 OF EMPLOYMENT AND RENEWAL PERIODS FOR PERFORMANCE PAY PLAN TEACHERS; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR PERFORMANCE PAY PLAN 12 TEACHERS; TO PROVIDE APPEAL PROCEDURES; TO PROVIDE REASONS FOR THE LOSS OF SALARY SUPPLEMENTS UNDER THE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED 13 14 PURPOSES. 15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 17 <u>SECTION 1.</u> (1) The purpose of this act is to establish a 18 performance pay plan for full-time licensed teachers.

19 (2) The performance pay plan shall consist of Advanced Teacher, Lead Teacher and Master Teacher positions. 20 The performance pay plan shall be designed: (a) to recognize career 21 teachers in Mississippi; (b) to promote staff development among 22 teachers in Mississippi; and (c) to reward those teachers 23 24 evaluated as outstanding and who may accept additional responsibilities as applicable. 25

26 (3) All performance pay plan licenses shall be supplementary27 to the basic license.

28 <u>SECTION 2.</u> For the purposes of this act, unless the context 29 otherwise requires:

30 (a) "Performance pay plan teacher" means a person who
31 has been employed as a teacher for not less than three (3) years
32 and who holds an Advanced Teacher license, Lead Teacher license or

33 Master Teacher license issued by the State Board of Education, 34 acting through the commission;

35 (b) "School month" means any month except June, July or
36 August, regardless of the actual months in which a school may be
37 in session;

38 (c) "School year" means the months of September through
39 May regardless of the actual months in which individual school
40 districts conduct classes; and

(d) "Commission" means the Commission on Teacher and
Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and
Development created by Section 37-3-2.

44 <u>SECTION 3.</u> (1) This act shall apply to all teachers who 45 enter the teaching profession for the first time after July 1, 46 2001, or who are licensed or certified as a career ladder teacher 47 after July 1, 2001.

48 (2) Nothing in this act shall be construed to grant49 duplicate supplements to such teachers.

50 (3) Participation in the performance pay plan shall be51 voluntary for all teachers.

52 (4) Teachers employed by the Departments of Corrections, Mental Health and Human Services shall be eligible to participate 53 54 in the performance pay plan provided for in this act. The State 55 Personnel Board, in consultation with the Department of Finance and Administration and the departments involved, shall prepare an 56 57 implementation plan for the evaluation of its teacher employees which substantially complies with the intent of this act. This 58 59 plan shall be approved by the State Board of Education before implementation. 60

(5) Teachers who are employed on a part-time basis shall be included under this act; such persons who work fifty percent (50%) of the school days in successive years shall be granted credit for the number of days actually worked for purposes of determining eligibility for participation in the performance pay plan. Such

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(6) Persons who are employed to teach vocational or other 68 69 courses and who are not required to hold a college degree shall be 70 eligible to participate in the performance pay plan on the same 71 terms as other teachers. The commission, with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop comparable and appropriate 72 licensure and evaluation standards, criteria, procedures and 73 instruments in accordance with this act for the evaluation and 74 75 advancement of such nondegreed teachers.

76 (7) Licensed personnel who are not employed in academic 77 classroom instruction, such as, but not limited to, principals, 78 assistant principals, guidance counselors, special education teachers, physical education teachers, librarians, music or art 79 teachers, shall be eligible to participate in the performance pay 80 plan on the same terms as other teachers. The commission, with 81 the approval of the State Board of Education, shall develop 82 comparable and appropriate licensure and evaluation standards, 83 criteria, procedures and instruments in accordance with this act 84 85 for the evaluation and advancement of such teachers.

86 (8) The commission shall recommend to the State Board of
87 Education appropriate rules regarding the applications and
88 placement in the performance pay plan of full-time teachers who
89 fill dual capacity positions, such as, but not limited to,
90 principal-teachers, supervisor-teachers or teachers with split
91 grade classes.

92 (9) All performance pay plan licenses for teachers and
93 administrators and renewals thereof shall be issued by the State
94 Board of Education, on the recommendation of the commission in
95 accordance with the terms of Section 37-3-2. Persons applying for
96 any license provided for in this act shall apply to the
97 commission.

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98 (10) All licenses of teachers who are not included in the 99 performance pay plan provided for in this act, in effect on July 100 1, 2001, shall remain in full force and effect according to their 101 terms and may be renewed, in accordance with the regulations of 102 the State Board of Education.

SECTION 4. For the purposes of implementing the new 103 104 licensure system known as the performance pay plan for teachers 105 and providing the transition opportunity for presently licensed teachers to enter the new licensure system voluntarily: (a) any 106 public school teacher who has been employed as a licensed teacher 107 108 for at least eight (8) years on July 1, 2001, may apply for and is eligible to be considered for licensure as an Advanced Teacher, 109 Lead Teacher or a Master Teacher; (b) any such teacher who has 110 been employed as a licensed teacher for at least five (5) years 111 may apply for and is eligible to be considered for licensure as an 112 113 Advanced Teacher or a Lead Teacher; and (c) any person who has been employed as a licensed teacher for at least three (3) years 114 115 may apply for and is eligible to be considered for licensure as an Advanced Teacher. 116

117 SECTION 5. When determining whether any person applying for any license provided for in this act meets a minimum qualification 118 relating to prior years of experience, the applicant's total 119 current, relevant years of experience shall be credited, 120 notwithstanding any breaks in employment. The State Board of 121 122 Education, on the recommendation of the commission, may establish, by rule, criteria by which the currency and relevancy of the prior 123 124 experience may be determined.

125 <u>SECTION 6.</u> Costs of administration of this act shall not be 126 a part of or paid through the Minimum Education Program.

127 <u>SECTION 7.</u> (1) Superintendents, principals, assistant 128 principals, supervisors and teachers shall not be held liable, 129 personally or officially, when performing their duties in the 130 evaluation of teachers pursuant to this act.

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Immunity shall not extend to willful acts determined to (2) 131 be arbitrary, capricious, intended to damage the teacher's 132 reputation, or which are discriminatory or illegally motivated. 133 134 SECTION 8. (1) The State Board of Education acting through 135 the commission has jurisdiction over the issuance of all teaching 136 licenses and performance pay plan licenses as otherwise provided in this act. Teachers possessing a current, valid license on July 137 1, 2001, are eligible to apply for performance pay plan licenses 138 based on experience as set out in Section 4 of this act. Teachers 139 who are employed initially after July 1, 2001, are eligible to 140 141 apply for performance pay plan licenses based on experience, as follows: 142

143 (a) Advanced Teacher -- Employment for three (3) years144 as a licensed teacher;

(b) Lead Teacher -- Employment for at least two (2)years as an Advanced Teacher; or

147 (c) Master Teacher -- Employment for at least three (3)148 years as a Lead Teacher.

149 (2) Teachers shall be entitled to undergo evaluation during
150 the year in which they gain eligibility for Advanced, Lead or
151 Master Teacher status, based on experience set forth in subsection
152 (1).

153 <u>SECTION 9.</u> (1) The initial license for Advanced, Lead and 154 Master Teachers shall be valid for ten (10) years and shall be 155 renewable for additional periods of ten (10) years.

(2) Any teacher holding an Advanced Teacher license whose license is not renewed in due course because of the teacher's failure to meet the relevant licensure standards shall be issued, at the expiration of the Advanced Teacher's license and if minimum competency standards are met, a license that shall be valid for ten (10) years and shall be subject to renewal in the same manner as other teacher licenses.

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(3) Any teacher holding a Lead Teacher license whose license is not renewed in due course because of the teacher's failure to meet the relevant licensure standards shall be issued, at the expiration of such license and if minimum competency standards are met, an Advanced Teacher license that shall be valid for ten (10) years and shall be subject to renewal in the same manner as other such licenses.

(4) Any teacher holding a Master Teacher license whose license is not renewed in due course because of the teacher's failure to meet the relevant license standards shall be issued, at the expiration of the Master Teacher's license and if minimum competency standards are met, a Lead Teacher license that shall be valid for ten (10) years and shall be subject to renewal in the same manner as other such licenses.

Any career ladder license may be extended by the State 177 (5) Board of Education for a period of time not to exceed one (1) year 178 if a person's illness, disability or family hardship prevents the 179 180 completion of the evaluation for the purpose of relicensure. SECTION 10. (1) The minimum criteria for the initial 181 182 evaluation and relicensure of licensed teachers which are to be used by the commission for Advanced Teacher and Lead Teacher 183 184 licensure shall be established by a nine-member task force of 185 licensed teachers and administrators, appointed as provided in this section, and approved by the State Board of Education. 186 The 187 Governor shall appoint one (1) licensed teacher from each of Mississippi's five (5) congressional districts and the state 188 189 superintendent shall appoint one (1) licensed school administrator from each of Mississippi's three (3) Supreme Court districts and 190 one (1) licensed teacher from the state at large. The task force 191 192 shall meet on the call of the state superintendent, shall organize and elect aldermen, and shall make its report of proposed minimum 193 194 criteria for Advanced and Lead Teacher evaluation to the State 195 Board of Education on or before January 1, 2002.

H. B. No. 69 01/HR40/R292 PAGE 6 (RM\BD) (2) In order to be licensed as a Master Teacher, the
applicant shall meet the requirements and acquire a Master Teacher
certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching
Standards.

200 <u>SECTION 11.</u> (1) The procedural rules for the evaluation of 201 teachers which are to be used by the commission shall be designed 202 to assure a fair and meaningful evaluation of a teacher's 203 development, growth and performance in the teaching profession. 204 These rules shall be developed in consultation with local school 205 administrators and teachers and the State Board of Education.

206 (2)The procedural rules shall include the opportunity for multiple evaluations of all teachers holding performance pay plan 207 208 licenses. The performance of all performance pay plan teachers 209 shall be evaluated at least two (2) times between the time their license is issued or renewed and the license's expiration date and 210 may be evaluated at more frequent intervals by the local school 211 212 board using procedures and evaluation criteria promulgated by the 213 State Board of Education, on recommendation of the commission. However, teachers holding Lead Teacher or Master Teacher licenses 214 215 shall not be reevaluated until five (5) years after receiving such career ladder licensure. The scheduling of such evaluations shall 216 217 be determined in accordance with the evaluation plan adopted by 218 the local school board and approved by the State Board of Education. 219

(3) Nothing in the evaluation procedure mandated by this act
shall require a decision by a local school board to grant
continued employment from year to year to a performance pay plan
teacher. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit or
prevent a local school board from nonrenewal of a teacher pursuant
to the School Employment Procedures Act.

(4) Evaluations conducted pursuant to this act shall be open
 for inspection by the teacher, principal or local school board or
 their designated representatives.

H. B. No. 69 01/HR40/R292 PAGE 7 (RM\BD) (5) Upon being informed of the composition of the evaluating team, the teacher being evaluated shall be entitled to request that one (1) member of the team be removed and that the commission name a new member.

233 <u>SECTION 12.</u> (1) Any duly licensed Advanced Teacher may be 234 employed for ten (10) months. An Advanced Teacher shall perform 235 those duties prescribed by the local school board and such 236 additional duties as may be provided for in Section 15.

(2) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, a duly
licensed Advanced Teacher who has met the standards for licensure
established by the State Board of Education, on the recommendation
of the task force, and who is employed as such by a local school
board, shall receive a One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) salary
supplement in addition to any other compensation to which the
teacher may be entitled.

(3) For school years beginning after the 2002-2003 school
year, the commission shall establish, with the approval of the
State Board of Education, the deadline by which all requirements
for licensure shall be met.

248 SECTION 13. (1) Any duly licensed Lead Teacher paid as such may be employed for not less than ten (10) nor more than eleven 249 250 (11) months and shall perform those duties prescribed by the local school board and such other additional duties as may be provided 251 for in Section 15. Upon receiving a Lead Teacher license, a 252 253 teacher may choose either a ten-month or eleven-month contract. If the teacher chooses an eleven-month contract, that teacher may 254 receive either the full amount of the eleven-month supplement, if 255 256 that teacher's services are required during the eleventh month, or 257 that part of the supplement paid for outstanding performance, if 258 the services of that teacher are not required during the eleventh The amount received by the teacher shall be determined by 259 month. 260 the needs of the local school board for teachers during the

261 eleventh month.

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(2) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, Lead Teachers
who are employed by a local school board shall receive a Three
Thousand Dollar (\$3,000.00) salary supplement in addition to any
other compensation to which the teacher may be entitled.

266 <u>SECTION 14.</u> (1) Any licensed Master Teacher may be employed 267 for not less than ten (10) nor more than twelve (12) months and 268 perform those duties prescribed by the local school board and such 269 other additional duties as may be provided for in Section 15.

(2) Duly licensed Master Teachers who are employed as such
by a local school board shall receive a Six Thousand Dollar
(\$6,000.00) salary supplement in addition to any other
compensation to which the teacher may be entitled.

274 <u>SECTION 15.</u> (1) (a) An Advanced Teacher shall be eligible 275 for assignment by the principal to supervise and assist student 276 interns and probationary teachers as an additional responsibility.

A Lead Teacher shall be subject to assignment by 277 (b) the system superintendent to work with gifted or remedial students 278 279 or in other student enrichment programs as an additional responsibility in accordance with the plan required in subsection 280 281 Such teacher, at the discretion and direction of the (2). principal, also may supervise and participate in the skills 282 283 development of provisional and other licensed teachers. A Lead 284 Teacher who has appropriate training and experience shall be subject to assignment by the system superintendent to work with 285 286 special needs students.

As an additional responsibility, a Master Teacher, 287 (C) at the direction of the principal, shall supervise and assist in 288 the skills development of provisional, licensed, Advanced and Lead 289 Teachers. Teachers with eleven- or twelve-month contracts shall 290 291 be assigned, as an additional responsibility, to work with remedial or gifted students according to the plan required in 292 293 subsection (2), or in other student enrichment programs designed 294 by the local school board. A Master Teacher who has appropriate

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(d) In addition to the foregoing, Lead and Master
Teachers may perform other activities consistent with the plan
called for in subsection (2), including, but not limited to,
teaching in the adult education and literacy program.

301 (2)(a) Each local school board shall conduct an annual needs assessment to determine the focus of the extended contract 302 activities authorized by this section. Priority for such 303 activities shall be student needs, with school and teacher needs 304 305 of secondary importance. Subject to guidelines developed by the commission and approved by the State Board of Education, each 306 307 local school board shall have an extended contract committee 308 consisting of teachers, including one (1) Lead or Master Teacher 309 where possible, and administrators, which, as determined by the local school board, shall conduct or assist in the needs 310 assessment and advise on or certify to the need for specific 311 312 programs served through extended contracts. Each local superintendent shall devise a plan consistent with the needs and 313 314 abilities of the district to utilize the additional months of service which may be required from teachers in accordance with the 315 316 provisions of this section. Such plans shall include, but not be 317 limited to:

318 (i) Enrichment programs for gifted and talented 319 students; 320 (ii) Programs to enhance adult literacy and 321 education;

322 (iii) Programs relative to students who are at323 risk of dropping out of school;

(iv) Parent involvement projects aimed at
 assisting and improving their children's performance at school;
 (v) Extended programs for the full range of

327 handicapped students;

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01/HR40/R292 PAGE 10 (RM\BD) 328 (vi) Developmental or remediation programs for 329 students according to their needs; and

(vii) Enrichment programs in academic projects for
all students or activities that will best utilize the particular
talents and qualifications of the performance pay plan teachers
and meet the needs of the local school population.

334 (b) The plan also shall include the time periods in 335 which the programs and activities shall occur. If at all possible, each system shall include a summer program in order to 336 fully employ those teachers on ten-, eleven- and twelve-month 337 338 contracts. Only if a superintendent and local school board certify that it would not be feasible to finance the cost of 339 attendance by students in the summer months may a plan be devised 340 341 to utilize extra time each day, or during weekends or holidays to offer such programs, instead of summer sessions. A plan, however, 342 may include enrichment or other programs at any time. 343

344 (3) Appropriately licensed teachers with Lead and Master
345 level status shall be given priority of opportunity to participate
346 in extended contract activities. When extended contract positions
347 cannot be filled by Lead and Master Teachers, other teachers may
348 be used.

349 SECTION 16. (1) Any person who has been duly licensed as a performance pay plan teacher shall be qualified to teach in any 350 local school district. Any local school board, upon the 351 352 superintendent's recommendation, shall have the authority to employ a teacher with a performance pay plan license. Such a 353 teacher may be employed from within or without the local school 354 355 district, but may not be employed in place of a licensed teacher currently employed by that local school district, or a teacher on 356 357 leave.

358 (2) A person licensed as a Lead or Master Teacher may enter 359 into an employment agreement with a local school district to be

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362 <u>SECTION 17.</u> Any Lead or Master Teacher who declines the 363 duties of Lead or Master Teacher may not receive the state salary 364 supplement authorized in this act.

365 <u>SECTION 18.</u> (1) All supplements due to teachers under this 366 act shall be paid directly by the Department of Education to the 367 local school district and shall be in addition to its minimum 368 program entitlement and not a part of its minimum program 369 allotment.

370 (2) Once determined, the state salary supplement for
371 performance pay plan teachers shall remain constant
372 notwithstanding any increased training and experience attained,
373 except the salary supplements for Lead Teachers may be increased,
374 as applicable, if the teacher chooses a ten-, eleven- or
375 twelve-month contract.

376 (3) All supplements shall be subject to the availability of377 funds as appropriated by the Legislature.

378 Any person receiving a salary supplement shall continue (4)379 to receive the state base pay to which he would be entitled if he 380 were not receiving a salary supplement provided for in this act. 381 In devising its local salary schedule, a local school district may 382 not reduce or freeze the pay of any person receiving a salary supplement under this act, but such person shall receive any local 383 384 pay to which teachers with similar training and experience 385 otherwise are entitled.

(5) In order to ensure that no federal funds used to pay a teacher are withheld due to payments made under this act, any payment made under this act to a teacher whose base compensation is paid from federal funds shall be limited, to the extent necessary, to those funds which constitute the supplement for outstanding performance and not those funds which in the case of a

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392 teacher on a ten-, eleven- or twelve-month contract constitute 393 compensation for work performed during that month.

394 (6) Any teacher who applies for performance pay plan
395 licenses after January 1, 2002, shall receive his performance pay
396 plan supplement beginning the year after he completes all
397 requirements for such licensure, but not before the 2002-2003
398 school year.

(7) Persons eligible for evaluation pursuant to the criteria 399 400 set out in this act, who are chosen as evaluators in the first year of a new evaluation system implemented by the commission, and 401 402 who return to the assignment previously held before evaluator service, shall receive pay supplements retroactive to the 403 404 beginning of the academic year in which such persons are 405 evaluated; however, such persons must make timely application for 406 evaluation and such evaluation must be completed during the first 407 year of their return to the previous assignment following service 408 as an evaluator.

409 SECTION 19. (1) Any person applying for a license provided for in this act who is not recommended for licensure by the 410 411 commission may request the State Board of Education to review the decision by filing a written request for review of the decision of 412 the commission within sixty (60) days following the date of the 413 This request shall contain a detailed statement of the 414 decision. basis of the request for review. The detailed statement of the 415 416 basis of the request for review may be amended any time before the state board's staff member closing the record and preparing the 417 proposed findings of fact and recommended decision that will be 418 mailed to the parties. The person requesting a review by the 419 State Board of Education also shall file a copy of the request for 420 421 review with the local school district employing him.

422 (2) Upon its receipt of the copy of the request for review,
423 the local school board, at its option, may intervene before the
424 State Board of Education. Upon such intervention, the local

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425 school board shall have all the rights of other parties provided 426 for in this section.

The State Board of Education shall conduct this review 427 (3) 428 based upon the record prepared by the commission and shall have 429 the authority, by rule, to prescribe the contents and form of this This record shall include any statements or written 430 record. evidence which the person applying for the license desires to 431 The record shall be available to the parties for review 432 submit. and, upon payment of reasonable copying costs, the record shall be 433 mailed to the party requesting it. The parties shall have sixty 434 435 (60) days from receipt of the record to add additional statements or evidence. All parties shall be given notice that additions 436 437 have been made to the record, and have the opportunity to secure copies of such additions to the record. 438

(4) Upon the receipt of the request for review of a decision and the record of the proceedings of the commission, the State Board of Education shall authorize a staff member to review the record and prepare proposed findings of fact and a recommended decision which shall be sent to the parties. The proposed findings of fact shall specify the staff member's evidentiary facts for each contested content area or data source.

446 (5) Any person applying for the licensure who does not agree 447 with this proposed decision in his case may file, within forty-five (45) days of his receipt of the decision, written 448 449 exceptions to the decision stating his reasons for taking exception to the proposed decision and may request a hearing 450 before a duly authorized hearing officer of the State Board of 451 452 Education. If a hearing is requested, it shall be limited to the 453 record below. The person filing the exception shall be entitled 454 to introduce new evidence relating to the bias or prejudice of the commission or, with the approval of the hearing officer, any other 455 456 additional evidence when it has been shown to the satisfaction of 457 the hearing officer that the additional evidence is material and

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462 (6) Any person applying for a license provided for in this
463 act who is aggrieved by the decision of the State Board of
464 Education, or local school board employing such person, is
465 entitled to judicial review in the manner provided by law.

(7) No person seeking to review a decision of the commission or the State Board of Education shall be entitled to be paid the salary supplement for the license in dispute but shall be entitled to receive the salary supplement for any current, valid license held by such person.

(8) The State Board of Education, in its discretion, may 471 472 direct the commission to extend the validity of a license provided 473 for in this act, for a period not to exceed one (1) year, for any person requesting a review of a decision of the commission. 474 475 However, any person whose license is extended after it otherwise 476 expires shall not be entitled to the salary supplement provided 477 for in this act and shall not be required to perform the additional duties, if any, required in this act. 478

479 (9) The State Board of Education shall construe this act, and the rules, regulations and evaluation criteria promulgated 480 pursuant to this act, in favor of the person seeking review, 481 482 absent substantial and material evidence to the contrary. However, the burden of going forward with the evidence shall be 483 upon the person seeking to review the decision of the commission. 484 485 SECTION 20. Once a person qualifies for and receives a salary supplement as an Advanced, Lead or Master Teacher, such 486 487 person shall not be denied the supplement unless:

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(a) He is dismissed for cause;

(b) He fails to maintain or renew any license providedfor in this act; or

(c) He elects not to or refuses to perform the extra 491 duties required in this act. Any performance pay plan teacher who 492 493 has a change in positions but who remains within the performance pay plan licensure system shall retain his state salary supplement 494 for the remaining year(s) of validity of the performance pay plan 495 496 license. However, a teacher who holds more than one (1) performance pay plan license may receive only one (1) state salary 497 supplement, the highest of those for which he is otherwise 498 eligible. 499

500 SECTION 21. This act shall take effect and be in force from 501 and after July 1, 2001.