

By: Representative Reeves

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 298

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL INSTRUCTION, TEXTBOOKS AND TEACHING
2 MATERIALS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE DELIVERED TO STUDENTS IN THE
3 STANDARD ENGLISH LANGUAGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. (1) (a) The Legislature finds and declares that
6 the English language is the national public language of the United
7 States of America and the official language of the State of
8 Mississippi. In addition, the Legislature finds and declares that
9 the English language is spoken by the vast majority of Mississippi
10 residents and is the leading world language for science,
11 technology and international business, thereby being the language
12 of economic opportunity. The Legislature further finds and
13 declares that the public schools of the state have an obligation
14 to provide the children of Mississippi, regardless of their
15 ethnicity or national origins, with the skills necessary to become
16 productive members of our society: of those skills, literacy in
17 the English language is among the most important.

18 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that all
19 children in Mississippi public schools shall be taught the English
20 language by, among other means, being taught in English.

21 (2) In order to enable all public school children to become
22 proficient in speaking, reading and writing the English language,
23 all public school instruction, textbooks and teaching materials
24 must be delivered to students in the standard English language.

25 Exempted from the requirements of this subsection are: (a)
26 foreign language courses that have the specific objective of
27 teaching students a language other than the English language; and

28 (b) English language learner instruction that provides students
29 who do not speak English or whose native language is not English
30 with a transition to the English language while giving students
31 the opportunity to learn utilizing any available and appropriate
32 resources.

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