

By: Representatives Robinson (84th), Horne

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 413

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-15-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF STUDENTS RESIDING IN THE ADDED
3 TERRITORY OF A MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
4 ADJACENT TO THE ADDED TERRITORY WHEN THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
5 MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES NOT HAVE A MEMBER FROM THE ADDED
6 TERRITORY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 37-15-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-15-31. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsections (2)
11 through (5) of this section, upon the petition in writing of a
12 parent or guardian resident of the school district of an
13 individual student filed or lodged with the president or secretary
14 of the school board of a school district in which the pupil has
15 been enrolled or is qualified to be enrolled as a student under
16 Section 37-15-9, or upon the aforesaid petition or the initiative
17 of the school board of a school district as to the transfer of a
18 grade or grades, individual students living in one school district
19 or a grade or grades of a school within the districts may be
20 legally transferred to another school district, by the mutual
21 consent of the school boards of all school districts concerned,
22 which consent must be given in writing and spread upon the minutes
23 of such boards.

24 * * *

25 (b) The school board of the transferring school
26 district to which such petition may be addressed shall act thereon
27 not later than its next regular meeting subsequent to the filing
28 or lodging of the petition, and a failure to act within that time

29 shall constitute a rejection of such request. The school board of
30 the other school district involved (the transferee board) shall
31 act on such request for transfer as soon as possible after the
32 transferor board shall have approved or rejected such transfer and
33 no later than the next regular meeting of the transferee
34 board * * *, and a failure of such transferee board to act within
35 such time shall constitute a rejection of such request. If such a
36 transfer is approved by the transferee board, * * * then such
37 decision shall be final. If such a transfer should be refused by
38 the school board of either school district * * *, then such
39 decision shall be final.

40 (c) Any legal guardianship formed for the purpose of
41 establishing residency for school district attendance purposes
42 shall not be recognized by the affected school board.

43 (2) (a) Upon the petition in writing of any parent or
44 guardian who is a resident of Mississippi and is an instructional
45 or licensed employee of a school district, but not a resident of
46 such district, the school board of the employer school district
47 shall consent to the transfer of such employee's dependent
48 school-age children to its district and shall spread the same upon
49 the minutes of the board. Upon the petition in writing of any
50 parent or guardian who is not a resident of Mississippi and on
51 January 1, 1993, is an instructional or licensed employee of a
52 school district in Mississippi, the school board of the employer
53 school district shall consent to the transfer of such employee's
54 dependent school-age children to its district and shall spread the
55 same upon the minutes of the board.

56 (b) The school board of any school district, in its
57 discretion, may adopt a uniform policy to allow the enrollment and
58 attendance of the dependent children of noninstructional and
59 nonlicensed employees, who are residents of Mississippi but are
60 not residents of their district. Such policy shall be based upon

61 the employment needs of the district, implemented according to job
62 classification groups and renewed each school year.

63 (c) The employer transferee school district shall
64 notify in writing the school district from which the pupil or
65 pupils are transferring, and the school board of the transferor
66 school district shall spread the same upon its minutes.

67 (d) Any such agreement by school boards for the legal
68 transfer of a student shall include a provision providing for the
69 transportation of the student. In the absence of such a provision
70 the responsibility for transporting the student to the transferee
71 school district shall be that of the parent or guardian.

72 (e) Any school district which accepts a student under
73 the provisions of this subsection shall not assess any tuition
74 fees upon such transferring student in accordance with the
75 provisions of Section 37-19-27.

76 (3) Upon the petition in writing of any parent or legal
77 guardian of a school-age child who is a resident of an adjacent
78 school district residing in the geographical situation described
79 in Section 37-15-29(3), the school board of the school district
80 operating the school located in closer proximity to the residence
81 of the child shall consent to the transfer of the child to its
82 district, and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board.
83 Any such agreement by school boards for the legal transfer of a
84 student under this subsection shall include a provision for the
85 transportation of the student by either the transferor or the
86 transferee school district. In the event that either the school
87 board of the transferee or the transferor school district shall
88 object to the transfer, it shall have the right to appeal to the
89 State Board of Education whose decision shall be final. However,
90 if the school boards agreeing on the legal transfer of any student
91 shall fail to agree on which district shall provide
92 transportation, the responsibility for transporting the student to

93 the transferee school district shall be that of the parent or
94 guardian.

95 (4) Upon the petition in writing of any parent or legal
96 guardian of a school-age child who was lawfully transferred to
97 another school district prior to July 1, 1992, as described in
98 Section 37-15-29(4), the school board of the transferee school
99 district shall consent to the transfer of such child and the
100 transfer of any school-age brother and sister of such child to its
101 district, and shall spread the same upon the minutes of the board.

102 (5) If the board of trustees of a municipal separate school
103 district with added territory does not have a member who is a
104 resident of the added territory outside the corporate limits, upon
105 the petition in writing of any parent or legal guardian of a
106 school-age child who is a resident of the added territory outside
107 the corporate limits, the board of trustees of the municipal
108 separate school district and the school board of the school
109 district adjacent to the added territory shall consent to the
110 transfer of the child from the municipal separate school district
111 to the adjacent school district. The agreement must be spread
112 upon the minutes of the board of trustees of the municipal
113 separate school district and the school board of the adjacent
114 school district. The agreement must provide for the
115 transportation of the student. In the absence of such a
116 provision, the parent or legal guardian shall be responsible for
117 transporting the student to the adjacent school district. Any
118 school district that accepts a student under this subsection may
119 not assess any tuition fees against the transferring student.

120 The board of trustees of the municipal separate school
121 district and the school board of the adjacent school district
122 shall forward a certified copy of the agreement to the respective
123 levying authority for each school district, as defined in Section
124 37-57-1. Upon receipt of the agreement, the levying authorities
125 shall adjust the tax levy for school district purposes assessed

126 against the parent or legal guardian of the transferred student so
127 that the parent or legal guardian is not assessed any taxes levied
128 on behalf of the school district from which the student has
129 transferred, but instead, is assessed taxes levied by the school
130 district to which the student has transferred.

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