

By: Representative Ford

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 472

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-77, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH ESTABLISHES THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR SABBATICAL
3 PROGRAM, TO EXTEND THE REPEAL DATE FROM JULY 1, 2001, TO JULY 1,
4 2002; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-9-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-9-77. (1) There is established the Mississippi School
9 Administrator Sabbatical Program which shall be available to
10 licensed teachers employed in Mississippi school districts for not
11 less than three (3) years, for the purpose of allowing such
12 teachers to become local school district administrators under the
13 conditions set forth in this section. The State Board of
14 Education, in coordination with the Board of Trustees of State
15 Institutions of Higher Learning, shall develop guidelines for the
16 program. Application shall be made to the State Department of
17 Education for the Mississippi School Administrator Sabbatical
18 Program by qualified teachers meeting the criteria for a
19 department-approved administration program and who have been
20 recommended by the local school board. Administration programs
21 that are eligible for the administrator sabbatical program shall
22 be limited to those that have been approved by the department by
23 the January 1 preceding the date of admission to the program.
24 Admission into the program shall authorize the applicant to take
25 university course work and training leading to an administrator's
26 license.

27 (2) The salaries of the teachers approved for participation
28 in the administrator sabbatical program shall be paid by the
29 employing school district from nonminimum education program funds.
30 However, the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
31 employing school districts for the cost of the salaries and paid
32 fringe benefits of teachers participating in the administrator
33 sabbatical program for one (1) contract year. Reimbursement shall
34 be made in accordance with the then current minimum education
35 program salary schedule under Section 37-19-7, except that the
36 maximum amount of the reimbursement from state funds shall not
37 exceed the minimum education program salary for a teacher holding
38 a Class A license and having five (5) years' experience. The
39 local school district shall be responsible for that portion of a
40 participating teacher's salary attributable to the local
41 supplement and for any portion of the teacher's salary that
42 exceeds the maximum amount allowed for reimbursement from state
43 funds as provided in this subsection, and the school board may not
44 reduce the local supplement payable to that teacher. Any
45 reimbursements made by the State Department of Education to local
46 school districts under this section shall be subject to available
47 appropriations and may be made only to school districts determined
48 by the State Board of Education as being in need of
49 administrators.

50 (3) Such teachers participating in the program on a
51 full-time basis shall continue to receive teaching experience and
52 shall receive the salary prescribed in Section 37-19-7, including
53 the annual experience increments. Such participants shall be
54 fully eligible to continue participation in the Public Employees
55 Retirement System and the Public School Employees Health Insurance
56 Plan during the time they are in the program on a full-time basis.

57 (4) As a condition for participation in the School
58 Administrator Sabbatical Program, such teachers shall agree to
59 employment as administrators in the sponsoring school district for

not less than five (5) years following completion of administrator licensure requirements. Any person failing to comply with this employment commitment in any required school year, unless the commitment is deferred as provided in subsection (5) of this section, shall immediately be in breach of contract and become liable to the State Department of Education for that amount of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the state while the teacher was on sabbatical, less twenty percent (20%) of the amount of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the state for each year that the person was employed as an administrator following completion of the administrator licensure requirements. In addition, the person shall become liable to the local school district for any portion of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the local school district while the teacher was on sabbatical that is attributable to the local salary supplement or is attributable to the amount that exceeds the maximum amount allowed for reimbursement from state funds as provided in subsection (2) of this section, less twenty percent (20%) of the amount of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the school district for each year that the person was employed as an administrator following completion of the administrator licensure requirements. Interest on the amount due shall accrue at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs. If the claim for repayment of such salary and fringe benefits is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection after default, then the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

(5) If there is not an administrator position immediately available in the sponsoring school district after a person has completed the administrator licensure requirements, or if the administrator position in the sponsoring school district in which the person is employed is no longer needed before the completion of the five-year employment commitment, the local school board

93 shall defer any part of the employment commitment that has not
94 been met until such time as an administrator position becomes
95 available in the sponsoring school district. If such a deferral
96 is made, the sponsoring school district shall employ the person as
97 a teacher in the school district during the period of deferral,
98 unless the person desires to be released from employment by the
99 sponsoring school district and the district agrees to release the
100 person from employment. If the sponsoring school district
101 releases a person from employment, that person may be employed as
102 an administrator in another school district in the state that is
103 in need of administrators as determined by the State Board of
104 Education, and that employment for the other school district shall
105 be applied to any remaining portion of the five-year employment
106 commitment required under this section. Nothing in this
107 subsection shall prevent a school district from not renewing the
108 person's contract before the end of the five-year employment
109 commitment in accordance with the School Employment Procedures Law
110 (Section 37-9-101 et seq.). However, if the person is not
111 employed as an administrator by another school district after
112 being released by the sponsoring school district, or after his
113 contract was not renewed by the sponsoring school district, he
114 shall be liable for repayment of the amount of his salary and
115 fringe benefits as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

116 (6) All funds received by the State Department of Education
117 from the repayment of salary and fringe benefits paid by the state
118 from program participants shall be deposited in the Mississippi
119 Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

120 (7) This section shall stand repealed from and after July 1,
121 2002.

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