

By: Representative Eads

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 669

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ESTABLISH MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL
3 SCHOOL BOARDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school
8 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount
9 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)
10 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in
11 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as
12 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the
13 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which
14 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods
15 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall
16 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible
17 for any state employee group insurance, retirement or other fringe
18 benefits. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary
19 expenses and mileage in attending meetings of the school board.
20 In addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for
21 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of
22 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board
23 training session or at regional and national education meetings,
24 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board
25 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be
26 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this

27 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section
28 25-3-41.

29 Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by
30 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school
31 district involved against the funds available for payment of the
32 administrative expense of the district.

33 (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent
34 (20%) or more of the regularly scheduled meetings of the school
35 board during one (1) calendar year, the member must reimburse the
36 school district that portion of the total salary paid to the
37 member that year which is proportionate to the number of regularly
38 scheduled meetings missed by the member in relation to the total
39 number of such meetings held during that year. For purposes of
40 this subsection, consideration may be given only to regularly
41 scheduled meetings of which public notice is required.

42 (b) A school board member who is required to reimburse
43 a school district for missed meetings under this subsection shall
44 enter into an agreement with the superintendent of the school
45 district for the payment of the total amount owed the school
46 district by the member. The agreement may provide for the payment
47 to be made in a lump sum by a date certain or in partial payments
48 according to a payment schedule set forth in the agreement. If
49 the school board member fails to enter into this agreement or pay
50 the total amount owed the school district before March 1 of the
51 year immediately succeeding the year in which the meetings were
52 missed, the member may not be paid any compensation or expense
53 reimbursement authorized under subsection (1) of this section
54 until the total amount owed the district has been withheld.

55 (c) Before February 1 of each year, the president of
56 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board
57 of Education containing the names of any members of the school
58 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the regularly

59 scheduled school board meetings during the preceding calendar
60 year.

61 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
62 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
63 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
64 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
65 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
66 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
67 extended.

68 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after January 1, 2002, if it is effectuated on or before that
70 date under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended
71 and extended. If it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
72 Rights Act of 1965, as amended or extended, after January 1, 2002,
73 this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the date
74 it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of
75 1965, as amended and extended.