

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2071

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-159-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ESTABLISH THE "THREE-FOR-THREE TEACHER RELOCATION PROGRAM"; TO
3 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO MAKE ANNUAL GRANTS TO
4 CERTIFICATED TEACHERS WHO RELOCATE IN ORDER TO TEACH IN A CRITICAL
5 TEACHER SHORTAGE GEOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE STATE; TO PROVIDE
6 CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON RECEIPT OF THE GRANT AND PENALTIES FOR
7 BREACH OF CONTRACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
8 PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS
9 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 37-159-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 37-159-5. (1) The State Board of Education shall prescribe
14 rules and regulations which, subject to available appropriations,
15 allow for reimbursement to the state licensed teachers, from both
16 in-state and out-of-state, who enter into a contract for
17 employment in a school district situated within a geographical
18 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
19 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, for the
20 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation
21 of the teacher to a different geographical area than that in which
22 the teacher resides before entering into such contract. In order
23 to be eligible for the reimbursement, the teacher must apply to
24 the local district and the district must obtain the prior approval
25 from the department for reimbursement before the relocation
26 occurs. If the reimbursement is approved, the department shall
27 provide funds to the school district to reimburse the teacher an
28 amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the
29 documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating,
30 including the expense of any professional moving company or



31 persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles
32 or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for state employees
33 under Section 25-3-41 if the teacher used his personal vehicle or
34 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated
35 with the relocation in accordance with the department's
36 established rules and regulations. No teacher may be reimbursed
37 for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1)
38 occasion.

39 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
40 actual residence to which the teacher relocates to be within the
41 boundaries of the school district which has executed a contract
42 for employment with the teacher or within the boundaries of the
43 area designated by the State Board of Education as the critical
44 teacher shortage area in order for the teacher to be eligible for
45 reimbursement for his moving expenses. However, teachers must
46 relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi.

47 (2) There is hereby established the "Three-for-Three Teacher
48 Relocation Program." To the extent of appropriations available,
49 certificated teachers who have expressed in writing a present
50 intention to teach in a critical teacher shortage geographic
51 section of the state, as designated on an annual basis by the
52 State Board of Education, shall be eligible for an annual
53 relocation grant of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for each of
54 three (3) years, in addition to the reimbursement of relocation
55 expenses authorized under subsection (1). To be eligible to
56 receive the annual grant, recipients shall be required to teach in
57 a school located in such critical teacher shortage geographic area
58 for at least seventy-eight (78) school days during each of the two
59 (2) school semesters immediately after the receipt of the grant.
60 No recipient shall receive more than Nine Thousand Dollars
61 (\$9,000.00) in the aggregate from this program.

62 Persons failing to meet teaching requirements in any required
63 semester shall immediately be in breach of contract and become



64 liable to the State Board of Education for the amount of the
65 annual grant received for the current year, with interest accruing
66 at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs,
67 except in the case of a deferral of debt for cause by the board,
68 after which period of deferral, teaching duties required hereunder
69 will be resumed. If the claim for repayment of such grant is
70 placed in the hands of an attorney for collection after default,
71 then the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to
72 a reasonable attorney's fee.

73 Failure to repay any grant and interest that becomes due
74 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching
75 certificate by the State Department of Education.

76 All monies repaid to the State Board of Education hereunder
77 shall be added to the appropriations made for purposes of this
78 section, and said appropriations shall not lapse.

79 The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
80 necessary for the proper administration of this section.

81 If insufficient funds are available for requested grants to
82 qualified applicants during any fiscal year, priority
83 consideration shall be given to persons receiving previous grants
84 and participating in the program.

85 The State Board of Education shall make an annual report to
86 the Legislature enumerating the relocation grants awarded, the
87 names of persons to whom granted, and the teaching location of
88 applicants.

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

