

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2183

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-143-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE WILLIAM F. WINTER INCENTIVE LOAN PROGRAM FOR  
3 TEACHERS SHALL BE FULLY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS PREPARING TO BE  
4 PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-143-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-143-11. (1) It is the intention of the Legislature to  
9 attract and retain qualified teachers, principals and school  
10 administrators by awarding incentive loans to persons declaring an  
11 intention to serve in the teaching or administrative field and who  
12 actually render service to the state while possessing an  
13 appropriate teaching or administrator license.

14 (2) There is established the "William F. Winter  
15 Teacher/Administrator Scholar Loan Program."

16 (3) To the extent of appropriations available, students who  
17 are enrolled in any baccalaureate degree-granting institution of  
18 higher learning in the State of Mississippi accredited by the  
19 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and approved by the  
20 Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation, or any accredited  
21 nonprofit community or junior college, and who have expressed in  
22 writing a present intention to teach or administer schools in  
23 Mississippi, shall be eligible for student loans to be applied to  
24 the costs of their college education. Persons who have been  
25 admitted to a teacher or school administrator education program as  
26 approved by the State Board of Education shall also qualify for  
27 loans at approved institutions.



28           (4) A freshman establishing initial eligibility shall be  
29 eligible for a maximum of four (4) annual loans and a senior or  
30 graduate student shall be eligible for one (1) annual loan.

31           (5) The maximum annual loan shall be set by the Board of  
32 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning at an amount not  
33 to exceed the cost of attendance at any baccalaureate  
34 degree-granting institution of higher learning in the State of  
35 Mississippi. However, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
36 the maximum annual loan amounts under the William F. Winter  
37 Teacher/Administrator Scholar Loan Program shall not be of such  
38 amounts that would compete with the Critical Needs Teacher  
39 Scholarship Program.

40           (6) The loans of persons who actually render service as  
41 licensed teachers or school administrators in a public school in  
42 Mississippi for a major portion of the school day for at least  
43 seventy-eight (78) school days during each of eight (8) school  
44 semesters of the ten (10) immediately after obtaining a  
45 baccalaureate degree, shall be converted to interest-free  
46 scholarships. Conversion shall be based on two (2) semesters of  
47 service for each year a loan was received, and the Board of  
48 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall not  
49 authorize the conversion of loans into interest-free scholarships  
50 at any other ratio, except as follows: Participants in the  
51 William F. Winter Teacher/Administrator Scholar Loan Program may  
52 have their loans converted into interest-free scholarships at the  
53 same ratio as under the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program  
54 if they render service as a licensed teacher or administrator in a  
55 public school district in a geographical area of the state where  
56 there is a critical shortage of teachers or administrators, as  
57 designated by the State Board of Education.

58           (7) Persons failing to complete an appropriate program of  
59 study shall immediately become liable to the Board of Trustees of  
60 State Institutions of Higher Learning for the sum of all



61 outstanding loans, except in the case of a deferral of debt for  
62 cause by the board, after which period of deferral, study may be  
63 resumed. Persons failing to meet teaching or school administrator  
64 requirements in any required semester shall immediately be in  
65 breach of contract and become liable to the board for the amount  
66 of the corresponding loan received, with interest accruing at the  
67 current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs, except  
68 in the case of a deferral of debt for cause by the board, after  
69 which period of deferral, teaching or administrative duties  
70 required hereunder will be resumed. If the claim for payment of  
71 such loan is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection  
72 after default, then the obligor shall be liable for an additional  
73 amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

74 (8) A loan made pursuant to this section shall not be  
75 voidable by reason of the age of the borrower at the time of  
76 receiving the loan.

77 (9) Failure to repay any loan and interest that becomes due  
78 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching license  
79 by the State Department of Education.

80 (10) All monies repaid to the Board of Trustees of State  
81 Institutions of Higher Learning hereunder shall be added to the  
82 appropriations made for purposes of this section, and those  
83 appropriations shall not lapse.

84 (11) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
85 Learning with the concurrence of the State Board of Education  
86 shall jointly promulgate regulations necessary for the proper  
87 administration of this section.

88 (12) If insufficient funds are available for requested loans  
89 to a qualified student during any fiscal year, the Board of  
90 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall make pro  
91 rata reductions in the loans made to qualifying applicants.  
92 Priority consideration shall be given to persons receiving  
93 previous loans and participating in the program.



94           (13) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
95 Learning shall make an annual report to the Legislature. Each  
96 report shall contain a complete enumeration of the board's  
97 activities, loans or scholarships granted, names of persons to  
98 whom granted and the institutions attended by those receiving the  
99 same, the teaching/administrator location of applicants who have  
100 received their education and become licensed  
101 teachers/administrators within this state as a result of the loans  
102 and/or scholarships. The board shall make a full report and  
103 account of receipts and expenditures for salaries and expenses  
104 incurred under the provisions of this section. The board shall,  
105 upon its records and any published reports, distinguish between  
106 those recipients who have breached their contracts but with the  
107 board's permission who have paid their financial obligations in  
108 full, and those recipients who have breached their contracts and  
109 remain financially indebted to the state.

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

