

By: Representatives Warren,
Mayo, Brown

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-19-7, 37-19-21 AND 37-21-7,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE
3 SINE DIE GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATE INCREASE BY AT LEAST FIVE
4 PERCENT ANNUALLY AS A PREREQUISITE TO IMPLEMENTING INCREASES IN
5 SALARIES FOR TEACHERS AND ASSISTANT TEACHERS AND IN THE ALLOTMENT
6 FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN TO RAISE
7 TEACHERS' SALARIES TO THE SOUTHEASTERN AVERAGE; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 37-19-7. (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
13 as the Mississippi "Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP)." The
14 allowance in the minimum education program and the Mississippi
15 Adequate Education Program for teachers' salaries in each county
16 and separate school district shall be determined and paid in
17 accordance with the scale for teachers' salaries as provided in
18 this subsection. For teachers holding the following types of
19 licenses or the equivalent as determined by the State Board of
20 Education, and the following number of years of teaching
21 experience, the scale shall be as follows:

22 * * *

23 2001-2002 School Year * * *

24 Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

25	AAAA.....	\$ 26,290.00
26	AAA.....	25,440.00
27	AA.....	24,590.00
28	A.....	23,540.00

29 25 or More Years of Teaching Experience

30	AAAA.....	\$ 27,790.00
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31	AAA.....	26,940.00
32	AA.....	26,090.00
33	A.....	25,040.00

34 * * *

35 **2002-2003 School Year * * ***

36 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

37	AAAA.....	\$ 27,850.00
38	AAA.....	27,000.00
39	AA.....	26,150.00
40	A.....	24,700.00

41 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

42	AAAA.....	\$ 29,850.00
43	AAA.....	29,000.00
44	AA.....	28,150.00
45	A.....	26,700.00

46 * * * For each one percent (1%) that the Sine Die General
47 Fund Revenue Estimate Growth exceeds * * * five percent (5%) * * *
48 for fiscal year 2003, as certified by the Legislative Budget
49 Office to the State Board of Education and subject to specific
50 appropriation therefor by the Legislature, the State Board of
51 Education shall revise the salary scale to provide an additional
52 one percent (1%) across the board increase in the base salaries
53 for each type of license.

54 * * *

55 **2003-2004 School Year * * ***

56 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

57	AAAA.....	\$ 29,550.00
58	AAA.....	28,700.00
59	AA.....	27,850.00
60	A.....	26,000.00

61 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

62	AAAA.....	\$ 31,550.00
63	AAA.....	30,700.00

64 AA..... 29,850.00

65 A..... 28,000.00

66 The State Board of Education shall revise the salary scale
67 prescribed above for the 2003-2004 school year to conform to any
68 adjustments made to the salary scale in the prior fiscal year due
69 to revenue growth over and above five percent (5%). * * * For
70 each one percent (1%) that the Sine Die General Fund Revenue
71 Estimate Growth exceeds * * * five percent (5%) * * * for fiscal
72 year 2004, as certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the
73 State Board of Education and subject to specific appropriation
74 therefor by the Legislature, the State Board of Education shall
75 revise the salary scale to provide an additional one percent (1%)
76 across the board increase in the base salaries for each type of
77 license.

78 * * *

79 **2004-2005 School Year * * ***

80 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

81 AAAA..... \$ 31,775.00

82 AAA..... 30,850.00

83 AA..... 29,925.00

84 A..... 28,000.00

85 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

86 AAAA..... \$ 33,775.00

87 AAA..... 32,850.00

88 AA..... 31,925.00

89 A..... 30,000.00

90 The State Board of Education shall revise the salary scale
91 prescribed above for the 2004-2005 school year to conform to any
92 adjustments made to the salary scale in prior fiscal years due to
93 revenue growth over and above five percent (5%). * * * For each
94 one percent (1%) that the Sine Die General Fund Revenue Estimate
95 Growth exceeds * * * five percent (5%) * * * for fiscal year 2005,
96 as certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the State Board

97 of Education and subject to specific appropriation therefor by the
98 Legislature, the State Board of Education shall revise the salary
99 scale to provide an additional one percent (1%) across the board
100 increase in the base salaries for each type of license.

101 * * *

102 **2005-2006 School Year and School Years Thereafter**

103 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

104	AAAA.....	\$ 34,000.00
105	AAA.....	33,000.00
106	AA.....	32,000.00
107	A.....	30,000.00

108 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

109	AAAA.....	\$ 36,000.00
110	AAA.....	35,000.00
111	AA.....	34,000.00
112	A.....	32,000.00

113 The State Board of Education shall revise the salary scale
114 prescribed above for the 2005-2006 school year to conform to any
115 adjustments made to the salary scale in prior fiscal years due to
116 revenue growth over and above five percent (5%). * * * For each
117 one percent (1%) that the Sine Die General Fund Revenue Estimate
118 Growth exceeds * * * five percent (5%) * * * for fiscal year 2006,
119 as certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the State Board
120 of Education and subject to specific appropriation therefor by the
121 Legislature, the State Board of Education shall revise the salary
122 scale to provide an additional one percent (1%) across the board
123 increase in the base salaries for each type of license.

124 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
125 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
126 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
127 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
128 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
129 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority

130 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
131 establish, administer and maintain the system.

132 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
133 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
134 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
135 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
136 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
137 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
138 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
139 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
140 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
141 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered
142 a part of the amount of individual local supplement.

143 **2001-2002 School Year Annual Increment**

144 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
145 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
146 Six Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$660.00) for each year of teaching
147 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
148 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

149 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
150 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
151 Five Hundred Ninety-five Dollars (\$595.00) for each year of
152 teaching experience possessed by the person holding such license
153 until such person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching
154 experience.

155 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
156 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Five
157 Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$530.00) for each year of teaching
158 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
159 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

160 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
161 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
162 Hundred Thirty-five Dollars (\$435.00) for each year of teaching

163 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
164 person shall have twenty-one (21) years of teaching experience.

165 * * *

166 **2002-2003 School Year Annual Increment**

167 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
168 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
169 Six Hundred Eighty-five Dollars (\$685.00) for each year of
170 teaching experience possessed by the person holding such license
171 until such person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching
172 experience.

173 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
174 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
175 Six Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$620.00) for each year of teaching
176 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
177 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

178 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
179 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Five
180 Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$555.00) for each year of teaching
181 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
182 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

183 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
184 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
185 Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$445.00) for each year of teaching
186 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
187 person shall have twenty-two (22) years of teaching experience.

188 * * *

189 **2003-2004 School Year Annual Increment**

190 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
191 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
192 Seven Hundred Ten Dollars (\$710.00) for each year of teaching
193 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
194 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

195 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
196 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
197 Six Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$645.00) for each year of teaching
198 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
199 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

200 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
201 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Five
202 Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$580.00) for each year of teaching
203 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
204 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

205 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
206 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
207 Hundred Fifty-five Dollars (\$455.00) for each year of teaching
208 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
209 person shall have twenty-three (23) years of teaching experience.

210 * * *

211 **2004-2005 School Year Annual Increment**

212 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
213 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
214 Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$740.00) for each year of teaching
215 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
216 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

217 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
218 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
219 Six Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$675.00) for each year of
220 teaching experience possessed by the person holding such license
221 until such person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching
222 experience.

223 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
224 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Six
225 Hundred Ten Dollars (\$610.00) for each year of teaching experience
226 possessed by the person holding such license until such person
227 shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

228 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
229 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
230 Hundred Sixty-five Dollars (\$465.00) for each year of teaching
231 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
232 person shall have twenty-four (24) years of teaching experience.

233 * * *

234 **2005-2006 School Year**
235 **and School Years Thereafter Annual Increments**

236 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
237 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
238 Seven Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$770.00) for each year of teaching
239 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
240 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

241 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
242 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
243 Seven Hundred Five Dollars (\$705.00) for each year of teaching
244 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
245 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

246 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
247 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Six
248 Hundred Forty Dollars (\$640.00) for each year of teaching
249 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
250 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

251 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
252 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
253 Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$480.00) for each year of teaching
254 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
255 person shall have twenty-four (24) years of teaching experience.

256 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
257 in establishing the salary allotment for the teachers for each
258 year shall be determined by the type of valid teacher's license
259 issued to those teachers on or before October 1 of the current
260 school year.

261 (2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual
262 salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars
263 (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other
264 compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

265 (i) Any licensed teacher who has met the
266 requirements and acquired a Master Teacher certificate from the
267 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is
268 employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education
269 as a teacher and not as an administrator. * * * Such teacher shall
270 submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the
271 certificate was received prior to October 15 in order to be
272 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
273 year, or the teacher shall submit such documentation to the State
274 Department of Education prior to February 15 in order to be
275 eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
276 second term of the school year.

277 (ii) * * * Any licensed school counselor who has
278 met the requirements and acquired a National Certified School
279 Counselor (NCSC) endorsement from the National Board of Certified
280 Counselors and who is employed by a local school board or the
281 State Board of Education as a counselor and not as an
282 administrator. Such licensed school counselor shall submit
283 documentation to the State Department of Education that the
284 endorsement was received prior to October 15 in order to be
285 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
286 year, or the licensed school counselor shall submit such
287 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
288 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
289 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
290 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
291 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
292 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
293 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors,

294 and any school counselor receiving the salary supplement will be
295 required to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under
296 item (i) of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such
297 salary supplement.

298 (iii) * * * Any licensed speech-language
299 pathologist and audiologist who has met the requirements and
300 acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American
301 Speech-Language-Hearing Association and who is employed by a local
302 school board. Such licensed speech-language pathologist and
303 audiologist shall submit documentation to the State Department of
304 Education that the certificate or endorsement was received prior
305 to October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary
306 supplement in the current school year, or the licensed
307 speech-language pathologist and audiologist shall submit such
308 documentation to the State Department of Education prior to
309 February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
310 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
311 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
312 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
313 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
314 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school
315 speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and any school
316 speech-language pathologist and audiologist receiving the salary
317 supplement will be required to complete the Master Teacher
318 certificate process under item (i) of this paragraph in order to
319 continue receiving such salary supplement.

320 (b) An employee shall be reimbursed one (1) time for
321 the actual cost of completing the process of acquiring the
322 certificate or endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for
323 postgraduate courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
324 for a school counselor or speech-language pathologist and
325 audiologist, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in
326 the award of the certificate or endorsement. A local school

327 district or any private individual or entity may pay the cost of
328 completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement
329 for any employee of the school district described under paragraph
330 (a), and the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
331 school district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the
332 process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement.
333 If a private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing
334 the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an
335 employee, the local school district may agree to directly
336 reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the
337 employee.

338 (c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process
339 reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid
340 directly by the State Department of Education to the local school
341 district and shall be in addition to its minimum education program
342 allotments and not a part thereof in accordance with regulations
343 promulgated by the State Board of Education, and subject to
344 appropriation by the Legislature. Local school districts shall
345 not reduce the local supplement paid to any employee receiving
346 such salary supplement, and the employee shall receive any local
347 supplement to which employees with similar training and experience
348 otherwise are entitled.

349 (d) The State Department of Education may not pay any
350 process reimbursement to a school district for an employee who
351 does not complete the certification or endorsement process
352 required to be eligible for the certificate or endorsement. If an
353 employee for whom such cost has been paid in full or in part by a
354 local school district or private individual or entity fails to
355 complete the certification or endorsement process, the employee
356 shall be liable to the school district or individual or entity for
357 all amounts paid by the school district or individual or entity on
358 behalf of that employee toward his or her certificate or
359 endorsement.

360 SECTION 2. Section 37-19-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
361 amended as follows:

362 37-19-21. * * * For fiscal year 2002 * * *, each school
363 district shall be allotted Five Thousand Ninety-seven Dollars
364 (\$5,097.00) per teacher unit for use in supportive services. * * *

365 This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2002.

366 SECTION 3. Section 37-21-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
367 amended as follows:

368 37-21-7. (1) This section shall be referred to as the
369 "Mississippi Elementary Schools Assistant Teacher Program," the
370 purpose of which shall be to provide an early childhood education
371 program that assists in the instruction of basic skills. The
372 State Board of Education is authorized, empowered and directed to
373 implement a statewide system of assistant teachers in kindergarten
374 classes and in the first, second and third grades. The assistant
375 teacher shall assist pupils in actual instruction under the strict
376 supervision of a licensed teacher.

377 (2) (a) Except as otherwise authorized under subsection
378 (7), each school district shall employ the total number of
379 assistant teachers funded under subsection (6) of this section.
380 The superintendent of each district shall assign the assistant
381 teachers to the kindergarten, first-, second- and third-grade
382 classes in the district in a manner that will promote the maximum
383 efficiency, as determined by the superintendent, in the
384 instruction of skills such as verbal and linguistic skills,
385 logical and mathematical skills, and social skills.

386 (b) If a licensed teacher to whom an assistant teacher
387 has been assigned is required to be absent from the classroom, the
388 assistant teacher may assume responsibility for the classroom in
389 lieu of a substitute teacher. However, no assistant teacher shall
390 assume sole responsibility of the classroom for more than three
391 (3) consecutive school days. Further, in no event shall any
392 assistant teacher be assigned to serve as a substitute teacher for

393 any teacher other than the licensed teacher to whom that assistant
394 teacher has been assigned.

395 (3) Assistant teachers shall have, at a minimum, a high
396 school diploma or a GED equivalent, and shall show demonstratable
397 proficiency in reading and writing skills. The State Department
398 of Education shall develop a testing procedure for assistant
399 teacher applicants to be used in all school districts in the
400 state.

401 (4) (a) In order to receive funding, each school district
402 shall:

403 (i) Submit a plan on the implementation of a
404 reading improvement program to the State Department of Education;
405 and

406 (ii) Develop a plan of educational accountability
407 and assessment of performance, including pretests and posttests,
408 for reading in Grades 1 through 6.

409 (b) Additionally, each school district shall:

410 (i) Provide annually a mandatory preservice
411 orientation session, using an existing in-school service day, for
412 administrators and teachers on the effective use of assistant
413 teachers as part of a team in the classroom setting and on the
414 role of assistant teachers, with emphasis on program goals;

415 (ii) Hold periodic workshops for administrators
416 and teachers on the effective use and supervision of assistant
417 teachers;

418 (iii) Provide training annually on specific
419 instructional skills for assistant teachers;

420 (iv) Annually evaluate their program in accordance
421 with their educational accountability and assessment of
422 performance plan; and

423 (v) Designate the necessary personnel to supervise
424 and report on their program.

425 (5) The State Department of Education shall:

426 (a) Develop and assist in the implementation of a
427 statewide uniform training module, subject to the availability of
428 funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, which
429 shall be used in all school districts for training administrators,
430 teachers and assistant teachers. The module shall provide for the
431 consolidated training of each assistant teacher and teacher to
432 whom the assistant teacher is assigned, working together as a
433 team, and shall require further periodical training for
434 administrators, teachers and assistant teachers regarding the role
435 of assistant teachers;

436 (b) Annually evaluate the program on the district and
437 state level. Subject to the availability of funds specifically
438 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the department shall
439 develop: (i) uniform evaluation reports, to be performed by the
440 principal or assistant principal, to collect data for the annual
441 overall program evaluation conducted by the department; or (ii) a
442 program evaluation model that, at a minimum, addresses process
443 evaluation; and

444 (c) Promulgate rules, regulations and such other
445 standards deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
446 section. Noncompliance with the provisions of this section and
447 any rules, regulations or standards adopted by the department may
448 result in a violation of compulsory accreditation standards as
449 established by the State Board of Education and Commission on
450 School Accreditation.

451 (6) In addition to other funds allotted under the Minimum
452 Education or Adequate Education Program, each school district
453 shall be allotted sufficient funding for the purpose of
454 employing * * * assistant teachers. * * * No assistant teacher
455 shall be paid less than the amount he or she received in the prior
456 school year. No school district shall receive any funds under
457 this section for any school year during which the aggregate amount
458 of the local contribution to the salaries of assistant teachers by

459 the district shall have been reduced below such amount for the
460 previous year. * * *

461 For the 2001-2002 school year, the minimum salary for
462 assistant teachers shall be Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-five
463 Dollars (\$9,365.00).

464 For the 2002-2003 school year, the minimum salary for
465 assistant teachers shall be Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars
466 (\$9,900.00).

467 For the 2003-2004 school year, the minimum salary for
468 assistant teachers shall be Ten Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
469 (\$10,500.00).

470 For the 2004-2005 school year, the minimum salary for
471 assistant teachers shall be Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars
472 (\$11,200.00).

473 For the 2005-2006 school year and school years thereafter,
474 the minimum salary for assistant teachers shall be Twelve Thousand
475 Dollars (\$12,000.00).

476 In addition, for each one percent (1%) that the Sine Die
477 General Fund Revenue Estimate Growth exceeds * * * five percent
478 (5%) * * * in fiscal year * * * 2003, 2004, 2005 or 2006, as
479 certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the State Board of
480 Education and subject to the specific appropriation therefor by
481 the Legislature, the State Board of Education shall revise the
482 salary scale in the appropriate year to provide an additional one
483 percent (1%) across the board increase in the base salaries for
484 assistant teachers. The State Board of Education shall revise the
485 salaries prescribed above for assistant teachers to conform to any
486 adjustments made in prior fiscal years due to revenue growth over
487 and above five percent (5%). The assistant teachers shall not be
488 restricted to working only in the grades for which the funds were
489 allotted, but may be assigned to other classes as provided in
490 subsection (2)(a) of this section.

491 (7) (a) As an alternative to employing assistant teachers,
492 any school district may use the * * * allotment provided under
493 subsection (6) of this section for the purpose of employing
494 licensed teachers for kindergarten, first-, second- and
495 third-grade classes; however, no school district shall be
496 authorized to use the * * * allotment for assistant teachers for
497 the purpose of employing licensed teachers unless the district has
498 established that the employment of licensed teachers using such
499 funds will reduce the teacher:student ratio in the kindergarten,
500 first-, second- and third-grade classes. All state funds for
501 assistant teachers shall be applied to reducing teacher:student
502 ratio in Grades K-3.

503 It is the intent of the Legislature that no school district
504 shall dismiss any assistant teacher for the purpose of using
505 the * * * assistant teacher allotment to employ licensed teachers.
506 School districts may rely only upon normal attrition to reduce the
507 number of assistant teachers employed in that district.

508 (b) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
509 accreditation requirements, the State Board of Education, in its
510 discretion, may exempt such school district from any accreditation
511 requirements for the district's early childhood education program
512 or reading improvement program.

513 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
514 and after its passage.