

By: Representative Brown

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1358

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION SHALL
 3 CONDUCT THE BASIC AND CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL
 4 BOARD MEMBERS, TO PROVIDE THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHALL APPROPRIATE
 5 FUNDS FOR SUCH TRAINING PROGRAMS DIRECTLY TO THE ASSOCIATION, TO
 6 CREATE A SEVEN-MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD TO RECOMMEND CONTENT FOR THE
 7 COURSES OF INSTRUCTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION, AND TO
 8 REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO BE PREPARED FOR THE LEGISLATURE
 9 DESCRIBING THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND INCLUDING AN EVALUATION OF
 10 THE TRAINING PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-306, MISSISSIPPI CODE
 11 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
 12 SHALL PROVIDE THE BASIC AND CONTINUING TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR
 13 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 16 amended as follows:

17 37-3-4. (1) There is established * * * within the State
 18 Department of Education, the School Executive Management
 19 Institute. The director shall be appointed by the State Board of
 20 Education upon recommendation by the State Superintendent of
 21 Public Education. The State Superintendent of Public Education,
 22 with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall assign
 23 sufficient staff members from the State Department of Education to
 24 the institute.

25 (2) It shall be the purpose and duty of the institute to
 26 conduct thorough empirical studies and analyses of the school
 27 management needs of the local school districts throughout the
 28 state, to make recommendations to the State Board of Education
 29 regarding standards and programs of training that aid in the
 30 development of administrative and management skills of local
 31 school administrators, and to conduct such programs related to



32 these purposes as they are implemented under guidelines
33 established by the State Board of Education.

34 (3) The State Board of Education shall develop and implement
35 through the School Executive Management Institute a program for
36 the development of administrative and management skills of local
37 school administrators under which all local school administrators
38 shall be required to participate. Subject to the extent of
39 appropriations available for such purpose, the School Executive
40 Management Institute or the Mississippi School Boards Association
41 shall be required to offer courses at least twice a year on the
42 uses of technology to principals, superintendents and other
43 administrative personnel. These courses shall relate to the
44 application of technology to learning, as well as administrative
45 problems.

46 (4) (a) The institute shall have an advisory board composed
47 of ten (10) qualified members appointed by the State Board of
48 Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of
49 Public Education. This advisory board will offer recommendations
50 to the institute on the types of training to be instituted and
51 supported. The membership of the advisory board shall be composed
52 of the following members, two (2) to be appointed from each
53 congressional district: three (3) school administrators; one (1)
54 representative of public community/junior colleges within the
55 state; one (1) representative of a school of education in an
56 institution of higher learning within the state; two (2) local
57 school board members; one (1) classroom teacher; and two (2) lay
58 persons. In making the initial appointments, three (3) members
59 shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, three (3) members
60 shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, two (2) members
61 shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, and two (2)
62 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years.
63 Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of four (4)
64 years. The advisory board shall meet when called by the director,



65 but in no event fewer than three (3) times per year. The members
66 of the advisory board shall be compensated at the per diem rate
67 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and reimbursed for actual and
68 necessary expenses as authorized by Section 25-3-41.

69 (b) Board members of the Oxford-Lafayette Business and
70 Industrial Complex shall be paid per diem and reimbursed for
71 expenses and mileage from local funds in accordance with Section
72 37-6-13.

73 (5) The Mississippi School Boards Association shall conduct
74 the following school board training programs:

75 (a) Basic Education Course. Subject to the extent of
76 appropriations available for such purpose, the Mississippi School
77 Boards Association shall prepare and conduct a course of training
78 for basic education for the local school board members of this
79 state, in order for board members to carry out their duties more
80 effectively and be exposed to new ideas involving school
81 restructuring. The basic course shall be known as the "School
82 Board Member Training Course" and shall consist of at least twelve
83 (12) hours of training.

84 (b) Continuing Education Course. The Mississippi
85 School Boards Association shall be responsible for preparing and
86 conducting a course of training for continuing education for the
87 local school board members of this state, in order for board
88 members to carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed
89 to new ideas involving school restructuring. The continuing
90 education course shall be known as the "Continuing Education
91 Course for School Board Members" and shall consist of at least six
92 (6) hours of training. The content of the basic education course
93 and the time and place such course is to be conducted shall be
94 determined by the Mississippi School Boards Association; however,
95 to the extent practicable, such training sessions shall be held
96 within geographical proximity of local districts in order that
97 travel times and costs shall not be prohibitive. The curriculum



98 of such training sessions shall include, but not be limited to,
99 the following:

- 100 (i) The role of the local board;
- 101 (ii) School leadership;
- 102 (iii) Financial management;
- 103 (iv) School restructuring;
- 104 (v) Innovations in school management;
- 105 (vi) Human relations;
- 106 (vii) Multicultural and multiethnic relations; and
- 107 (viii) Crisis management.

108 The Mississippi School Boards Association shall issue
109 certificates of completion to those school board members who
110 complete the basic course and * * * to those school board members
111 who complete the continuing education course. All costs and
112 expenses for preparing and conducting the basic education course
113 and for preparing and conducting the continuing education course
114 provided for in this subsection shall be paid out of any funds
115 which are made available to the Mississippi School Boards
116 Association upon authorization and appropriation by the
117 Legislature directly to the Mississippi School Boards
118 Association. * * *

119 (6) There is created a School Board Training Advisory Board
120 composed of seven (7) members for the purpose of recommending to
121 the Mississippi School Boards Association the content of the
122 courses to be administered by the association. The advisory board
123 shall be comprised of the following members: two (2) members
124 appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Education, subject
125 to the approval of the State Board of Education; two (2) members
126 appointed by the Executive Director of the Mississippi School
127 Boards Association, subject to the approval of the board of
128 directors of the association; one (1) local school superintendent
129 appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Education, subject
130 to the approval of the State Board of Education; one (1) local



131 school superintendent appointed by the Executive Director of the
132 Mississippi Association of School Superintendents, subject to the
133 approval of the board of directors of the association; and one (1)
134 local school board member appointed by the Executive Director of
135 the Mississippi School Boards Association, subject to the approval
136 of the board of directors of the association. All members shall
137 be appointed for a one-year term but may be reappointed for up to
138 two (2) additional consecutive terms. The advisory board shall
139 meet when called by the Executive Director of the Mississippi
140 School Boards Association, but in no event fewer than three (3)
141 times per year. The members of the advisory board shall be
142 compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section 25-3-69 and
143 reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses as authorized by
144 Section 25-3-41, subject to the availability of funds appropriated
145 specifically therefor by the Legislature.

146 (7) The Mississippi School Boards Association shall prepare
147 and submit a report each year to the State Board of Education and
148 to the respective Chairs of the House and Senate Education
149 Committees describing the activities and providing an evaluation
150 of the basic and the continuing education programs offered by the
151 association each year.

152 (8) The School Executive Management Institute of the State
153 Department of Education, or the Mississippi School Boards
154 Association with the oversight of the State Board of Education, at
155 least twice a year, shall prepare and conduct required courses of
156 training for continuing education for the elementary and secondary
157 school principals of this state, in order for principals to carry
158 out their duties more effectively and be exposed to new ideas
159 involving school management. The continuing education course
160 shall be known as the "Continuing Education Course for Principals"
161 and shall consist of at least six (6) hours of training. The
162 content of the continuing education courses and the time and place
163 such courses are to be conducted shall be determined by the School



164 Executive Management Institute or the Mississippi School Boards
165 Association; however, to the extent practicable, such training
166 sessions shall be held within geographical proximity of local
167 districts in order that travel times and costs shall not be
168 prohibitive. The curriculum of such training sessions shall
169 include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 170 (a) School leadership;
- 171 (b) Financial management;
- 172 (c) Innovations in school management;
- 173 (d) Student psychology;
- 174 (e) Student health issues;
- 175 (f) Student drug abuse;
- 176 (g) Human relations;
- 177 (h) Multicultural and multiethnic relations; and
- 178 (i) Crisis management.

179 The institute shall issue certificates of completion to those
180 principals who complete such courses. All costs and expenses for
181 preparing and conducting the basic and continuing education
182 courses provided for in this subsection shall be paid out of any
183 funds which are made available to the institute upon authorization
184 and appropriation by the Legislature.

185 (9) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
186 accreditation requirements, the State Board of Education, in its
187 discretion, may exempt the school superintendents, principals and
188 other administrators of such school district from the provisions
189 of this section.

190 (10) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2007.

191 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-306, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
192 amended as follows:

193 37-7-306. (1) Every school board member selected after July
194 1, 2002, shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

195 (2) Every school board member selected after July 1, 1993,
196 shall be required to complete a basic course of training and



197 education for local school board members, in order for board
198 members to carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed
199 to new ideas involving school restructuring. Such basic course of
200 training, approved by the State Board of Education, shall be
201 conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association. Upon
202 completion of the basic course of training, the Mississippi School
203 Boards Association shall file a certificate of completion for the
204 school board member with the office of the local school board. In
205 the event that a board member fails to complete such training
206 within six (6) months of his selection, * * * such board member
207 shall no longer be qualified to serve and shall be removed from
208 office.

209 (3) In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection
210 (2) of this section, after taking office, each school board member
211 shall be required to file annually in the office of the school
212 board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing
213 education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards
214 Association. * * *

215 (4) Every school board member selected after July 1, 2002,
216 shall spend at least one (1) full day in a school in the district
217 they represent, without compensation.

218 (5) Upon the failure of any local school board member to
219 file with the school board the certificate of completion of the
220 basic or continuing course of training as provided in subsection
221 (2) or (3) of this section, the school board member shall be
222 removed from office by the Attorney General. In the event of a
223 medical or other catastrophic hardship that prevents such school
224 board member from obtaining the required training or filing such
225 certificate, as may be defined by the State Board of Education by
226 rule and regulation, an additional period of three (3) months may
227 be allowed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (2) or (3).

228 (6) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2007.



229 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
230 and after July 1, 2002.

