

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2171

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT PREPARATION TO TEACH GRADES K-12 IN
2 MISSISSIPPI SHALL REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE COURSE OF STUDY IN SERVICES
3 TO BE PROVIDED BY SCHOOLS TO SPECIAL POPULATION STUDENTS UNDER THE
4 FEDERAL I.D.E.A.; TO AMEND SECTION 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
5 1972, TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S IN-SERVICE STAFF
6 DEVELOPMENT PLANS TO INCLUDE TRAINING FOR SUCH SPECIAL EDUCATION
7 SERVICE REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Recognizing teaching as a profession, preparation
10 to teach in Mississippi Kindergarten through Grades 12 shall
11 include at least one (1) course of study in age appropriate
12 services to be provided by schools to special population students
13 as required by the federal I.D.E.A. law and state law and
14 regulations. It shall be a requirement for any person to be
15 certified as a teacher in Mississippi after July 1, 2003, that
16 such person meet and comply with the requirements of this section.

17 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-17-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:

19 37-17-8. (1) The State Board of Education, through the
20 Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish criteria for
21 comprehensive in-service staff development plans. These criteria
22 shall: (a) include, but not be limited to, formula and guidelines
23 for allocating available state funds for in-service training to
24 local school districts; (b) require that a portion of the plans be
25 devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff development
26 training for beginning teachers within that local school district
27 and for no other purpose; * * * (c) require that a portion of the
28 school district's in-service training for administrators and
29 teachers be dedicated to the application and utilization of



various disciplinary techniques; and (d) require that a portion of the school district's in-service training for administrators and teachers be dedicated to the required services to be provided to special population students under the federal I.D.E.A. law and state statutes and regulations. The board shall each year make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the amount of funds which shall be appropriated for this purpose.

(2) Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, school districts shall not be required to submit staff development plans to the Commission on School Accreditation for approval. However, any school district accredited at Level 1 or Level 2 shall include, as a part of any required corrective action plan, provisions to address staff development in accordance with State Board of Education requirements. All school districts, unless specifically exempt from this section, must maintain on file staff development plans as required under this section. The plan shall have been prepared by a district committee appointed by the district superintendent and consisting of teachers, administrators, school board members, and lay people, and it shall have been approved by the district superintendent.

(3) In order to insure that teachers are not overburdened with paperwork and written reports, local school districts and the State Board of Education shall take such steps as may be necessary to further the reduction of paperwork requirements on teachers.

(4) If any school district meets Level 4 or 5 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may exempt such school district from the provisions of this section.

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

