

By: Senator(s) Harden, Williamson, Burton

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2189

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 IDEA; TO AMEND SECTION 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
5 TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S IN-SERVICE STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
6 PLANS TO INCLUDE TRAINING FOR SUCH SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE  
7 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 IDEA law and state law and regulations.  
14 It shall be a requirement for any person to be certified as a  
15 teacher in Mississippi after July 1, 2004, that such person meet  
16 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  
25 be devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff  
26 development training for beginning teachers within that local  
27 school district and for no other purpose; \* \* \* (c) require that a  
28 portion of the school district's in-service training for  
29 administrators and teachers be dedicated to the application and



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

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

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

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

58 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2003.

