

By: Representative Clark

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 689

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WITH THE  
3 ASSISTANCE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SHALL PRODUCE A VOTER  
4 EDUCATION VIDEO TO INFORM STUDENTS IN GRADES 11 AND/OR 12 ON THE  
5 PROCEDURES OF VOTER REGISTRATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-1-3. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
10 and regulations and set standards and policies for the  
11 organization, operation, management, planning, budgeting and  
12 programs of the State Department of Education.

13 (a) The board is directed to identify all functions of  
14 the department that contribute to or comprise a part of the state  
15 system of educational accountability and to establish and maintain  
16 within the department the necessary organizational structure,  
17 policies and procedures for effectively coordinating such  
18 functions. Such policies and procedures shall clearly fix and  
19 delineate responsibilities for various aspects of the system and  
20 for overall coordination of the total system and its effective  
21 management.

22 (b) The board shall establish and maintain a  
23 system-wide plan of performance, policy and directions of public  
24 education not otherwise provided for.

25 (c) The board shall effectively use the personnel and  
26 resources of the department to enhance technical assistance to  
27 school districts in instruction and management therein.

28           (d) The board shall establish and maintain a central  
29 budget policy.

30           (e) The board shall establish and maintain within the  
31 State Department of Education a central management capacity under  
32 the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

33           (f) The board, with recommendations from the  
34 superintendent, shall design and maintain a five-year plan and  
35 program for educational improvement that shall set forth  
36 objectives for system performance and development and be the basis  
37 for budget requests and legislative initiatives.

38           (2) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt and  
39 maintain a curriculum and a course of study to be used in the  
40 public schools that is designed to prepare the state's children  
41 and youth to be productive, informed, creative citizens, workers  
42 and leaders, and it shall regulate all matters arising in the  
43 practical administration of the school system not otherwise  
44 provided for.

45           (b) Before the 1999-2000 school year, the State Board  
46 of Education shall develop personal living and finances objectives  
47 that focus on money management skills for individuals and families  
48 for appropriate, existing courses at the secondary level. The  
49 objectives must require the teaching of those skills necessary to  
50 handle personal business and finances and must include instruction  
51 in the following:

52                   (i) Opening a bank account and assessing the  
53 quality of a bank's services;

54                   (ii) Balancing a checkbook;

55                   (iii) Managing debt, including retail and credit  
56 card debt;

57                   (iv) Completing a loan application;

58                   (v) The implications of an inheritance;

59                   (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;

60                   (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;

- 61 (viii) Dealing with salesmen and merchants;  
62 (ix) Computing state and federal income taxes;  
63 (x) Local tax assessments;  
64 (xi) Computing interest rates by various  
65 mechanisms;  
66 (xii) Understanding simple contracts; and  
67 (xiii) Contesting an incorrect billing statement.

68 (c) Before the 2005-2006 school year, the State Board  
69 of Education, with the assistance of the Secretary of State, shall  
70 produce a voter education video to inform students in Grades 11  
71 and/or 12 on the procedures and importance of voter registration.  
72 The voter education video shall include, but is not limited to,  
73 the following information:

- 74 (i) Voter registration procedures;  
75 (ii) Absentee ballot voting procedures; and  
76 (iii) Poll voting procedures.

77 The video shall be shown to students in Grades 11 and/or 12 in all  
78 public schools in Mississippi on an annual basis.

79 (3) The State Board of Education shall through its actions  
80 seek to implement the policies set forth in Section 37-1-2.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
82 and after July 1, 2004.