

By: Senator(s) Doxey, Gollott, Brown

To: Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2337

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT PERSONS LICENSED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO TEACH ON  
3 AN EXPERT CITIZEN BASIS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO TEACH ANY COURSE IN  
4 GRADES 9-12 WITHOUT RESTRICTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-3-2. (1) There is established within the State  
9 Department of Education the Commission on Teacher and  
10 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and  
11 Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the commission  
12 to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding  
13 standards for the certification and licensure and continuing  
14 professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an  
15 educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.

16 (2) The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15)  
17 qualified members. The membership of the commission shall be  
18 composed of the following members to be appointed, three (3) from  
19 each congressional district: four (4) classroom teachers; three  
20 (3) school administrators; one (1) representative of schools of  
21 education of institutions of higher learning located within the  
22 state to be recommended by the Board of Trustees of State  
23 Institutions of Higher Learning; one (1) representative from the  
24 schools of education of independent institutions of higher  
25 learning to be recommended by the Board of the Mississippi  
26 Association of Independent Colleges; one (1) representative from  
27 public community and junior colleges located within the state to  
28 be recommended by the State Board for Community and Junior

29 Colleges; one (1) local school board member; and four (4) lay  
30 persons. All appointments shall be made by the State Board of  
31 Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of  
32 Public Education. The first appointments by the State Board of  
33 Education shall be made as follows: five (5) members shall be  
34 appointed for a term of one (1) year; five (5) members shall be  
35 appointed for a term of two (2) years; and five (5) members shall  
36 be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, all  
37 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years.

38 (3) The State Board of Education when making appointments  
39 shall designate a chairman. The commission shall meet at least  
40 once every two (2) months or more often if needed. Members of the  
41 commission shall be compensated at a rate of per diem as  
42 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and be reimbursed for actual and  
43 necessary expenses as authorized by Section 25-3-41.

44 (4) An appropriate staff member of the State Department of  
45 Education shall be designated and assigned by the State  
46 Superintendent of Public Education to serve as executive secretary  
47 and coordinator for the commission. No less than two (2) other  
48 appropriate staff members of the State Department of Education  
49 shall be designated and assigned by the State Superintendent of  
50 Public Education to serve on the staff of the commission.

51 (5) It shall be the duty of the commission to:

52 (a) Set standards and criteria, subject to the approval  
53 of the State Board of Education, for all educator preparation  
54 programs in the state;

55 (b) Recommend to the State Board of Education each year  
56 approval or disapproval of each educator preparation program in  
57 the state;

58 (c) Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
59 Board of Education, standards for initial teacher certification  
60 and licensure in all fields;

61           (d) Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
62 Board of Education, standards for the renewal of teacher licenses  
63 in all fields;

64           (e) Review and evaluate objective measures of teacher  
65 performance, such as test scores, which may form part of the  
66 licensure process, and to make recommendations for their use;

67           (f) Review all existing requirements for certification  
68 and licensure;

69           (g) Consult with groups whose work may be affected by  
70 the commission's decisions;

71           (h) Prepare reports from time to time on current  
72 practices and issues in the general area of teacher education and  
73 certification and licensure;

74           (i) Hold hearings concerning standards for teachers'  
75 and administrators' education and certification and licensure with  
76 approval of the State Board of Education;

77           (j) Hire expert consultants with approval of the State  
78 Board of Education;

79           (k) Set up ad hoc committees to advise on specific  
80 areas; and

81           (l) Perform such other functions as may fall within  
82 their general charge and which may be delegated to them by the  
83 State Board of Education.

84           (6) (a) **Standard License - Approved Program Route.** An  
85 educator entering the school system of Mississippi for the first  
86 time and meeting all requirements as established by the State  
87 Board of Education shall be granted a standard five-year license.  
88 Persons who possess two (2) years of classroom experience as an  
89 assistant teacher or who have taught for one (1) year in an  
90 accredited public or private school shall be allowed to fulfill  
91 student teaching requirements under the supervision of a qualified  
92 participating teacher approved by an accredited college of  
93 education. The local school district in which the assistant

94 teacher is employed shall compensate such assistant teachers at  
95 the required salary level during the period of time such  
96 individual is completing student teaching requirements.  
97 Applicants for a standard license shall submit to the department:  
98                   (i) An application on a department form;  
99                   (ii) An official transcript of completion of a  
100 teacher education program approved by the department or a  
101 nationally accredited program, subject to the following:  
102 Licensure to teach in Mississippi prekindergarten through  
103 kindergarten classrooms shall require completion of a teacher  
104 education program or a bachelor of science degree with child  
105 development emphasis from a program accredited by the American  
106 Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) or by the  
107 National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or by  
108 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
109 (NCATE). Licensure to teach in Mississippi kindergarten, for  
110 those applicants who have completed a teacher education program,  
111 and in Grade 1 through Grade 4 shall require the completion of an  
112 interdisciplinary program of studies. Licenses for Grades 4  
113 through 8 shall require the completion of an interdisciplinary  
114 program of studies with two (2) or more areas of concentration.  
115 Licensure to teach in Mississippi Grades 7 through 12 shall  
116 require a major in an academic field other than education, or a  
117 combination of disciplines other than education. Students  
118 preparing to teach a subject shall complete a major in the  
119 respective subject discipline. All applicants for standard  
120 licensure shall demonstrate that such person's college preparation  
121 in those fields was in accordance with the standards set forth by  
122 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
123 (NCATE) or the National Association of State Directors of Teacher  
124 Education and Certification (NASDTEC) or, for those applicants who  
125 have a bachelor of science degree with child development emphasis,  
126 the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS);

127                   (iii) A copy of test scores evidencing  
128 satisfactory completion of nationally administered examinations of  
129 achievement, such as the Educational Testing Service's teacher  
130 testing examinations; and

131                   (iv) Any other document required by the State  
132 Board of Education.

133                   (b) **Standard License - Nontraditional Teaching Route.**

134 Beginning January 1, 2003, an individual who possesses at least a  
135 bachelor's degree from a nationally or regionally accredited  
136 institution of higher learning, who has a passing score on the  
137 Praxis I Basic Skills and Praxis II Specialty Area Test in the  
138 requested area of endorsement may apply for the Teach Mississippi  
139 Institute (TMI) program to teach students in Grades 7 through 12  
140 if the individual meets the requirements of this paragraph (b).

141 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring that  
142 teacher preparation institutions which provide the Teach  
143 Mississippi Institute (TMI) program for the preparation of  
144 nontraditional teachers shall meet the standards and comply with  
145 the provisions of this paragraph.

146                   (i) The Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) shall  
147 include an intensive eight-week, nine-semester-hour summer  
148 program, which shall include, but not be limited to, instruction  
149 in education, effective teaching strategies, classroom management,  
150 state curriculum requirements, planning and instruction,  
151 instructional methods and pedagogy, using test results to improve  
152 instruction, and a one (1) semester three-hour supervised  
153 internship to be completed while the teacher is employed as a  
154 full-time teacher intern in a local school district. The TMI  
155 shall be implemented on a pilot program basis, with courses to be  
156 offered at up to four (4) locations in the state, with one (1) TMI  
157 site to be located in each of the three (3) Mississippi Supreme  
158 Court districts.

159                   (ii) The school sponsoring the teacher intern  
160 shall enter into a written agreement with the institution  
161 providing the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) program, under  
162 terms and conditions as agreed upon by the contracting parties,  
163 providing that the school district shall provide teacher interns  
164 seeking a nontraditional provisional teaching license with a  
165 one-year classroom teaching experience. The teacher intern shall  
166 successfully complete the one (1) semester three-hour intensive  
167 internship in the school district during the semester immediately  
168 following successful completion of the TMI and prior to the end of  
169 the one-year classroom teaching experience.

170                   (iii) Upon completion of the nine-semester-hour  
171 TMI, the individual shall submit his transcript to the commission  
172 for provisional licensure of the intern teacher, and the intern  
173 teacher shall be issued a provisional teaching license by the  
174 commission, which will allow the individual to legally serve as a  
175 teacher while the person completes a nontraditional teacher  
176 preparation internship program.

177                   (iv) During the semester of internship in the  
178 school district, the teacher preparation institution shall monitor  
179 the performance of the intern teacher. The school district that  
180 employs the provisional teacher shall supervise the provisional  
181 teacher during the teacher's intern year of employment under a  
182 nontraditional provisional license, and shall, in consultation  
183 with the teacher intern's mentor at the school district of  
184 employment, submit to the commission a comprehensive evaluation of  
185 the teacher's performance sixty (60) days prior to the expiration  
186 of the nontraditional provisional license. If the comprehensive  
187 evaluation establishes that the provisional teacher intern's  
188 performance fails to meet the standards of the approved  
189 nontraditional teacher preparation internship program, the  
190 individual shall not be approved for a standard license.

191                   (v) An individual issued a provisional teaching  
192 license under this nontraditional route shall successfully  
193 complete, at a minimum, a one-year beginning teacher mentoring and  
194 induction program administered by the employing school district  
195 with the assistance of the State Department of Education.

196                   (vi) Upon successful completion of the TMI and the  
197 internship provisional license period, applicants for a Standard  
198 License-Nontraditional Route shall submit to the commission a  
199 transcript of successful completion of the twelve (12) semester  
200 hours required in the internship program, and the employing school  
201 district shall submit to the commission a recommendation for  
202 standard licensure of the intern. If the school district  
203 recommends licensure, the applicant shall be issued a Standard  
204 License-Nontraditional Route which shall be valid for a five-year  
205 period and be renewable.

206                   (vii) At the discretion of the teacher-preparation  
207 institution, the individual shall be allowed to credit the twelve  
208 (12) semester hours earned in the nontraditional teacher  
209 internship program toward the graduate hours required for a Master  
210 of Arts in Teacher (MAT) Degree.

211                   (viii) The local school district in which the  
212 nontraditional teacher intern or provisional licensee is employed  
213 shall compensate such teacher interns at Step 1 of the required  
214 salary level during the period of time such individual is  
215 completing teacher internship requirements and shall compensate  
216 such Standard License-Nontraditional Route teachers at Step 3 of  
217 the required salary level when they complete license requirements.

218           Implementation of the TMI program provided for under this  
219 paragraph (b) shall be contingent upon the availability of funds  
220 appropriated specifically for such purpose by the Legislature.  
221 Such implementation of the TMI program may not be deemed to  
222 prohibit the State Board of Education from developing and  
223 implementing additional alternative route teacher licensure

224 programs, as deemed appropriate by the board. The emergency  
225 certification program in effect prior to July 1, 2002, shall  
226 remain in effect.

227 The State Department of Education shall compile and report,  
228 in consultation with the commission, information relating to  
229 nontraditional teacher preparation internship programs, including  
230 the number of programs available and geographic areas in which  
231 they are available, the number of individuals who apply for and  
232 possess a nontraditional conditional license, the subject areas in  
233 which individuals who possess nontraditional conditional licenses  
234 are teaching and where they are teaching, and shall submit its  
235 findings and recommendations to the legislative committees on  
236 education by December 1, 2004.

237 A Standard License - Approved Program Route shall be issued  
238 for a five-year period, and may be renewed. Recognizing teaching  
239 as a profession, a hiring preference shall be granted to persons  
240 holding a Standard License - Approved Program Route or Standard  
241 License - Nontraditional Teaching Route over persons holding any  
242 other license.

243 (c) **Special License - Expert Citizen. \* \* \*** The State  
244 Department of Education, in accordance with rules and regulations  
245 established by the State Board of Education, may grant an \* \* \*  
246 expert citizen-teacher license to local business or other  
247 professional personnel to teach in a public school or nonpublic  
248 school accredited or approved by the state. Such person may begin  
249 teaching upon his employment by the local school board and  
250 licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education, and shall be  
251 authorized to teach any course in Grades 9-12 at any time during  
252 the school day without restriction. The board shall adopt rules  
253 and regulations to administer the expert citizen-teacher license.  
254 A special license - expert citizen may be renewed in accordance  
255 with the established rules and regulations of the State Department  
256 of Education.



257           (d) **Special License - Nonrenewable.** The State Board of  
258 Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations to  
259 allow those educators not meeting requirements in subsection  
260 (6)(a), (b) or (c) to be licensed for a period of not more than  
261 three (3) years, except by special approval of the State Board of  
262 Education.

263           (e) **Nonlicensed Teaching Personnel.** A nonlicensed  
264 person may teach for a maximum of three (3) periods per teaching  
265 day in a public school or a nonpublic school accredited/approved  
266 by the state. Such person shall submit to the department a  
267 transcript or record of his education and experience which  
268 substantiates his preparation for the subject to be taught and  
269 shall meet other qualifications specified by the commission and  
270 approved by the State Board of Education. In no case shall any  
271 local school board hire nonlicensed personnel as authorized under  
272 this paragraph in excess of five percent (5%) of the total number  
273 of licensed personnel in any single school.

274           (f) **Special License - Transitional Bilingual Education.**  
275 Beginning July 1, 2003, the commission shall grant special  
276 licenses to teachers of transitional bilingual education who  
277 possess such qualifications as are prescribed in this section.  
278 Teachers of transitional bilingual education shall be compensated  
279 by local school boards at not less than one (1) step on the  
280 regular salary schedule applicable to permanent teachers licensed  
281 under this section. The commission shall grant special licenses  
282 to teachers of transitional bilingual education who present the  
283 commission with satisfactory evidence that they (i) possess a  
284 speaking and reading ability in a language, other than English, in  
285 which bilingual education is offered and communicative skills in  
286 English; (ii) are in good health and sound moral character; (iii)  
287 possess a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree in teacher  
288 education from an accredited institution of higher education; (iv)  
289 meet such requirements as to courses of study, semester hours

290 therein, experience and training as may be required by the  
291 commission; and (v) are legally present in the United States and  
292 possess legal authorization for employment. A teacher of  
293 transitional bilingual education serving under a special license  
294 shall be under an exemption from standard licensure if he achieves  
295 the requisite qualifications therefor. Two (2) years of service  
296 by a teacher of transitional bilingual education under such an  
297 exemption shall be credited to the teacher in acquiring a Standard  
298 Educator License. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to  
299 prohibit a local school board from employing a teacher licensed in  
300 an appropriate field as approved by the State Department of  
301 Education to teach in a program in transitional bilingual  
302 education.

303 (g) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5  
304 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education, in its  
305 discretion, may exempt such school district from any restrictions  
306 in paragraph (e) relating to the employment of nonlicensed  
307 teaching personnel.

308 (7) **Administrator License.** The State Board of Education is  
309 authorized to establish rules and regulations and to administer  
310 the licensure process of the school administrators in the State of  
311 Mississippi. There will be four (4) categories of administrator  
312 licensure with exceptions only through special approval of the  
313 State Board of Education.

314 (a) **Administrator License - Nonpracticing.** Those  
315 educators holding administrative endorsement but have no  
316 administrative experience or not serving in an administrative  
317 position on January 15, 1997.

318 (b) **Administrator License - Entry Level.** Those  
319 educators holding administrative endorsement and having met the  
320 department's qualifications to be eligible for employment in a  
321 Mississippi school district. Administrator license - entry level  
322 shall be issued for a five-year period and shall be nonrenewable.

323           (c) **Standard Administrator License - Career Level.** An  
324 administrator who has met all the requirements of the department  
325 for standard administrator licensure.

326           (d) **Administrator License - Nontraditional Route.** The  
327 board may establish a nontraditional route for licensing  
328 administrative personnel. Such nontraditional route for  
329 administrative licensure shall be available for persons holding,  
330 but not limited to, a master of business administration degree, a  
331 master of public administration degree, a master of public  
332 planning and policy degree or a doctor of jurisprudence degree  
333 from an accredited college or university, with five (5) years of  
334 administrative or supervisory experience. Successful completion  
335 of the requirements of alternate route licensure for  
336 administrators shall qualify the person for a standard  
337 administrator license.

338           The State Department of Education shall compile and report,  
339 in consultation with the commission, information relating to  
340 nontraditional administrator preparation internship programs,  
341 including the number of programs available and geographic areas in  
342 which they are available, the number of individuals who apply for  
343 and possess a nontraditional conditional license and where they  
344 are employed, and shall submit its findings and recommendations to  
345 the legislative committees on education by December 1, 2004.

346           Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year, individuals seeking  
347 school administrator licensure under paragraph (b), (c) or (d)  
348 shall successfully complete a training program and an assessment  
349 process prescribed by the State Board of Education. Applicants  
350 seeking school administrator licensure prior to June 30, 1997, and  
351 completing all requirements for provisional or standard  
352 administrator certification and who have never practiced, shall be  
353 exempt from taking the Mississippi Assessment Battery Phase I.  
354 Applicants seeking school administrator licensure during the  
355 period beginning July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998, shall

356 participate in the Mississippi Assessment Battery, and upon  
357 request of the applicant, the department shall reimburse the  
358 applicant for the cost of the assessment process required. After  
359 June 30, 1998, all applicants for school administrator licensure  
360 shall meet all requirements prescribed by the department under  
361 paragraph (b), (c) or (d), and the cost of the assessment process  
362 required shall be paid by the applicant.

363       (8) **Reciprocity.** (a) The department shall grant a standard  
364 license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license  
365 from another state and has a minimum of two (2) years of full-time  
366 teaching or administrator experience.

367       (b) The department shall grant a nonrenewable special  
368 license to any individual who possesses a credential which is less  
369 than a standard license or certification from another state, or  
370 who possesses a standard license from another state but has less  
371 than two (2) years of full-time teaching or administration  
372 experience. Such special license shall be valid for the current  
373 school year plus one (1) additional school year to expire on June  
374 30 of the second year, not to exceed a total period of twenty-four  
375 (24) months, during which time the applicant shall be required to  
376 complete the requirements for a standard license in Mississippi.

377       (9) **Renewal and Reinstatement of Licenses.** The State Board  
378 of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for  
379 the renewal and reinstatement of educator and administrator  
380 licenses. Effective May 15, 1997, the valid standard license held  
381 by an educator shall be extended five (5) years beyond the  
382 expiration date of the license in order to afford the educator  
383 adequate time to fulfill new renewal requirements established  
384 pursuant to this subsection. An educator completing a master of  
385 education, educational specialist or doctor of education degree in  
386 May 1997 for the purpose of upgrading the educator's license to a  
387 higher class shall be given this extension of five (5) years plus  
388 five (5) additional years for completion of a higher degree.

389           (10) All controversies involving the issuance, revocation,  
390 suspension or any change whatsoever in the licensure of an  
391 educator required to hold a license shall be initially heard in a  
392 hearing de novo, by the commission or by a subcommittee  
393 established by the commission and composed of commission members  
394 for the purpose of holding hearings. Any complaint seeking the  
395 denial of issuance, revocation or suspension of a license shall be  
396 by sworn affidavit filed with the Commission of Teacher and  
397 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and  
398 Development. The decision thereon by the commission or its  
399 subcommittee shall be final, unless the aggrieved party shall  
400 appeal to the State Board of Education, within ten (10) days, of  
401 the decision of the committee or its subcommittee. An appeal to  
402 the State Board of Education shall be on the record previously  
403 made before the commission or its subcommittee unless otherwise  
404 provided by rules and regulations adopted by the board. The State  
405 Board of Education in its authority may reverse, or remand with  
406 instructions, the decision of the committee or its subcommittee.  
407 The decision of the State Board of Education shall be final.

408           (11) The State Board of Education, acting through the  
409 commission, may deny an application for any teacher or  
410 administrator license for one or more of the following:

411                   (a) Lack of qualifications which are prescribed by law  
412 or regulations adopted by the State Board of Education;

413                   (b) The applicant has a physical, emotional or mental  
414 disability that renders the applicant unfit to perform the duties  
415 authorized by the license, as certified by a licensed psychologist  
416 or psychiatrist;

417                   (c) The applicant is actively addicted to or actively  
418 dependent on alcohol or other habit-forming drugs or is a habitual  
419 user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or  
420 other drugs having similar effect, at the time of application for  
421 a license;

422 (d) Revocation of an applicant's certificate or license  
423 by another state;

424 (e) Fraud or deceit committed by the applicant in  
425 securing or attempting to secure such certification and license;

426 (f) Failing or refusing to furnish reasonable evidence  
427 of identification;

428 (g) The applicant has been convicted, has pled guilty  
429 or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as defined by  
430 federal or state law; or

431 (h) The applicant has been convicted, has pled guilty  
432 or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense as defined  
433 by federal or state law.

434 (12) The State Board of Education, acting on the  
435 recommendation of the commission, may revoke or suspend any  
436 teacher or administrator license for specified periods of time for  
437 one or more of the following:

438 (a) Breach of contract or abandonment of employment may  
439 result in the suspension of the license for one (1) school year as  
440 provided in Section 37-9-57;

441 (b) Obtaining a license by fraudulent means shall  
442 result in immediate suspension and continued suspension for one  
443 (1) year after correction is made;

444 (c) Suspension or revocation of a certificate or  
445 license by another state shall result in immediate suspension or  
446 revocation and shall continue until records in the prior state  
447 have been cleared;

448 (d) The license holder has been convicted, has pled  
449 guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as  
450 defined by federal or state law;

451 (e) The license holder has been convicted, has pled  
452 guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense, as  
453 defined by federal or state law; or

454           (f) The license holder knowingly and willfully  
455 committing any of the acts affecting validity of mandatory uniform  
456 test results as provided in Section 37-16-4(1).

457           (13) (a) Dismissal or suspension of a licensed employee by  
458 a local school board pursuant to Section 37-9-59 may result in the  
459 suspension or revocation of a license for a length of time which  
460 shall be determined by the commission and based upon the severity  
461 of the offense.

462           (b) Any offense committed or attempted in any other  
463 state shall result in the same penalty as if committed or  
464 attempted in this state.

465           (c) A person may voluntarily surrender a license. The  
466 surrender of such license may result in the commission  
467 recommending any of the above penalties without the necessity of a  
468 hearing. However, any such license which has voluntarily been  
469 surrendered by a licensed employee may be reinstated by a  
470 unanimous vote of all members of the commission.

471           (14) A person whose license has been suspended on any  
472 grounds except criminal grounds may petition for reinstatement of  
473 the license after one (1) year from the date of suspension, or  
474 after one-half (1/2) of the suspended time has lapsed, whichever  
475 is greater. A license suspended on the criminal grounds may be  
476 reinstated upon petition to the commission filed after expiration  
477 of the sentence and parole or probationary period imposed upon  
478 conviction. A revoked license may be reinstated upon satisfactory  
479 showing of evidence of rehabilitation. The commission shall  
480 require all who petition for reinstatement to furnish evidence  
481 satisfactory to the commission of good character, good mental,  
482 emotional and physical health and such other evidence as the  
483 commission may deem necessary to establish the petitioner's  
484 rehabilitation and fitness to perform the duties authorized by the  
485 license.

486           (15) Reporting procedures and hearing procedures for dealing  
487 with infractions under this section shall be promulgated by the  
488 commission, subject to the approval of the State Board of  
489 Education. The revocation or suspension of a license shall be  
490 effected at the time indicated on the notice of suspension or  
491 revocation. The commission shall immediately notify the  
492 superintendent of the school district or school board where the  
493 teacher or administrator is employed of any disciplinary action  
494 and also notify the teacher or administrator of such revocation or  
495 suspension and shall maintain records of action taken. The State  
496 Board of Education may reverse or remand with instructions any  
497 decision of the commission regarding a petition for reinstatement  
498 of a license, and any such decision of the State Board of  
499 Education shall be final.

500           (16) An appeal from the action of the State Board of  
501 Education in denying an application, revoking or suspending a  
502 license or otherwise disciplining any person under the provisions  
503 of this section, shall be filed in the Chancery Court of the First  
504 Judicial District of Hinds County on the record made, including a  
505 verbatim transcript of the testimony at the hearing. The appeal  
506 shall be filed within thirty (30) days after notification of the  
507 action of the board is mailed or served and the proceedings in  
508 chancery court shall be conducted as other matters coming before  
509 the court. The appeal shall be perfected upon filing notice of  
510 the appeal and by the prepayment of all costs, including the cost  
511 of preparation of the record of the proceedings by the State Board  
512 of Education, and the filing of a bond in the sum of Two Hundred  
513 Dollars (\$200.00) conditioned that if the action of the board be  
514 affirmed by the chancery court, the applicant or license holder  
515 shall pay the costs of the appeal and the action of the chancery  
516 court.

517           (17) All such programs, rules, regulations, standards and  
518 criteria recommended or authorized by the commission shall become



519 effective upon approval by the State Board of Education as  
520 designated by appropriate orders entered upon the minutes thereof.

521 (18) The granting of a license shall not be deemed a  
522 property right nor a guarantee of employment in any public school  
523 district. A license is a privilege indicating minimal eligibility  
524 for teaching in the public schools of Mississippi. This section  
525 shall in no way alter or abridge the authority of local school  
526 districts to require greater qualifications or standards of  
527 performance as a prerequisite of initial or continued employment  
528 in such districts.

529 (19) In addition to the reasons specified in subsections  
530 (12) and (13) of this section, the board shall be authorized to  
531 suspend the license of any licensee for being out of compliance  
532 with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The  
533 procedure for suspension of a license for being out of compliance  
534 with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or  
535 reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, and the  
536 payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a  
537 license suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section  
538 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. Actions taken by the  
539 board in suspending a license when required by Section 93-11-157  
540 or 93-11-163 are not actions from which an appeal may be taken  
541 under this section. Any appeal of a license suspension that is  
542 required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 shall be taken in  
543 accordance with the appeal procedure specified in Section  
544 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than the  
545 procedure specified in this section. If there is any conflict  
546 between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any  
547 provision of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or  
548 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

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