

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2524

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE ALL THIRD GRADE STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO MEET PROFICIENCY
3 LEVELS IN MATH AND READING TO ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL; TO PROVIDE
4 THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DETERMINE THE LEVELS OF
5 PROFICIENCY IN MATH AND READING FOR ALL THIRD GRADE STUDENTS; AND
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

55 (ii) Balancing a checkbook;

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

58 (iv) Completing a loan application;

59 (v) The implications of an inheritance;

60 (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;

61 (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;

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

69 (c) The State Board of Education shall require all
70 third grade students who fail to meet proficiency levels in math
71 and reading to attend summer school. The board shall determine
72 the proficiency levels to be obtained in math and reading by all
73 third grade students.

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

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