

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2547

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT A LICENSED NURSE WHO HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS AND
3 ACQUIRED A CERTIFICATE FROM THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION
4 OF SCHOOL NURSES, INC., AND WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A LOCAL SCHOOL
5 BOARD OR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS SCHOOL NURSE AND NOT AS
6 AN ADMINISTRATOR SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY SUPPLEMENT; AND
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-19-7. (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
12 as the Mississippi "Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP)." The
13 allowance in the minimum education program and the Mississippi
14 Adequate Education Program for teachers' salaries in each county
15 and separate school district shall be determined and paid in
16 accordance with the scale for teachers' salaries as provided in
17 this subsection. For teachers holding the following types of
18 licenses or the equivalent as determined by the State Board of
19 Education, and the following number of years of teaching
20 experience, the scale shall be as follows:

21 * * *

22 2004-2005 School Year

23 Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience

24	AAAA.....	\$ 31,775.00
25	AAA.....	30,850.00
26	AA.....	29,925.00
27	A.....	28,000.00

28 25 or More Years of Teaching Experience

29	AAAA.....	\$ 33,775.00
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30	AAA.....	32,850.00
31	AA.....	31,925.00
32	A.....	30,000.00

33 The State Board of Education shall revise the salary scale
34 prescribed above for the 2004-2005 school year to conform to any
35 adjustments made to the salary scale in prior fiscal years due to
36 revenue growth over and above five percent (5%). For each one
37 percent (1%) that the Sine Die General Fund Revenue Estimate
38 Growth exceeds five percent (5%) for fiscal year 2005, as
39 certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the State Board of
40 Education and subject to specific appropriation therefor by the
41 Legislature, the State Board of Education shall revise the salary
42 scale to provide an additional one percent (1%) across the board
43 increase in the base salaries for each type of license.

44 **2005-2006 School Year and School Years Thereafter**

45 **Less Than 25 Years of Teaching Experience**

46	AAAA.....	\$ 34,000.00
47	AAA.....	33,000.00
48	AA.....	32,000.00
49	A.....	30,000.00

50 **25 or More Years of Teaching Experience**

51	AAAA.....	\$ 36,000.00
52	AAA.....	35,000.00
53	AA.....	34,000.00
54	A.....	32,000.00

55 The State Board of Education shall revise the salary scale
56 prescribed above for the 2005-2006 school year to conform to any
57 adjustments made to the salary scale in prior fiscal years due to
58 revenue growth over and above five percent (5%). For each one
59 percent (1%) that the Sine Die General Fund Revenue Estimate
60 Growth exceeds five percent (5%) for fiscal year 2006, as
61 certified by the Legislative Budget Office to the State Board of
62 Education and subject to specific appropriation therefor by the

63 Legislature, the State Board of Education shall revise the salary
64 scale to provide an additional one percent (1%) across the board
65 increase in the base salaries for each type of license.

66 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
67 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
68 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
69 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
70 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
71 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority
72 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
73 establish, administer and maintain the system.

74 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
75 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
76 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
77 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
78 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
79 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
80 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
81 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
82 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
83 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered a
84 part of the amount of individual local supplement.

85 * * *

86 **2004-2005 School Year Annual Increment**

87 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
88 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
89 Seven Hundred Forty Dollars (\$740.00) for each year of teaching
90 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
91 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

92 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
93 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
94 Six Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$675.00) for each year of
95 teaching experience possessed by the person holding such license

96 until such person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching
97 experience.

98 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
99 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Six
100 Hundred Ten Dollars (\$610.00) for each year of teaching experience
101 possessed by the person holding such license until such person
102 shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

103 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
104 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
105 Hundred Sixty-five Dollars (\$465.00) for each year of teaching
106 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
107 person shall have twenty-four (24) years of teaching experience.

108 **2005-2006 School Year**

109 **and School Years Thereafter Annual Increments**

110 For teachers holding a Class AAAA license, the minimum base
111 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
112 Seven Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$770.00) for each year of teaching
113 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
114 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

115 For teachers holding a Class AAA license, the minimum base
116 pay specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of
117 Seven Hundred Five Dollars (\$705.00) for each year of teaching
118 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
119 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

120 For teachers holding a Class AA license, the minimum base pay
121 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Six
122 Hundred Forty Dollars (\$640.00) for each year of teaching
123 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
124 person shall have twenty-five (25) years of teaching experience.

125 For teachers holding a Class A license, the minimum base pay
126 specified in this subsection shall be increased by the sum of Four
127 Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$480.00) for each year of teaching

128 experience possessed by the person holding such license until such
129 person shall have twenty-four (24) years of teaching experience.

130 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
131 in establishing the salary allotment for the teachers for each
132 year shall be determined by the type of valid teacher's license
133 issued to those teachers on or before October 1 of the current
134 school year.

135 (2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual
136 salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars
137 (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other
138 compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

139 (i) Any licensed teacher who has met the
140 requirements and acquired a Master Teacher certificate from the
141 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is
142 employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education
143 as a teacher and not as an administrator. Such teacher shall
144 submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the
145 certificate was received before October 15 in order to be eligible
146 for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the
147 teacher shall submit such documentation to the State Department of
148 Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a
149 prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the
150 school year.

151 (ii) Any licensed school counselor who has met the
152 requirements and acquired a National Certified School Counselor
153 (NCSC) endorsement from the National Board of Certified Counselors
154 and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of
155 Education as a counselor and not as an administrator. Such
156 licensed school counselor shall submit documentation to the State
157 Department of Education that the endorsement was received before
158 October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement
159 in the current school year, or the licensed school counselor shall
160 submit such documentation to the State Department of Education

161 before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary
162 supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.
163 However, the salary supplement authorized under this item shall be
164 discontinued two (2) years after the date on which the National
165 Board for Professional Teaching Standards offers a certification
166 process for a Master Teacher certificate for school counselors,
167 and any school counselor receiving the salary supplement will be
168 required to complete the Master Teacher certificate process under
169 item (i) of this paragraph in order to continue receiving such
170 salary supplement.

171 (iii) Any licensed speech-language pathologist and
172 audiologist who has met the requirements and acquired a
173 Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American
174 Speech-Language-Hearing Association and who is employed by a local
175 school board. Such licensed speech-language pathologist and
176 audiologist shall submit documentation to the State Department of
177 Education that the certificate or endorsement was received before
178 October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement
179 in the current school year, or the licensed speech-language
180 pathologist and audiologist shall submit such documentation to the
181 State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be
182 eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
183 second term of the school year. However, the salary supplement
184 authorized under this item shall be discontinued two (2) years
185 after the date on which the National Board for Professional
186 Teaching Standards offers a certification process for a Master
187 Teacher certificate for school speech-language pathologists and
188 audiologists, and any school speech-language pathologist and
189 audiologist receiving the salary supplement will be required to
190 complete the Master Teacher certificate process under item (i) of
191 this paragraph in order to continue receiving such salary
192 supplement.

193 (ii) Any licensed nurse who has met the
194 requirements and acquired a certificate from the National Board
195 for Certification of School Nurses, Inc., and who is employed by a
196 local school board or the State Board of Education as a school
197 nurse and not as an administrator. The licensed school nurse
198 shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education
199 that the certificate was received before October 15 in order to be
200 eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school
201 year, or the licensed school nurse shall submit the documentation
202 to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order
203 to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the
204 second term of the school year.

205 (b) An employee shall be reimbursed one (1) time for
206 the actual cost of completing the process of acquiring the
207 certificate or endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for
208 postgraduate courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
209 for a school counselor or speech-language pathologist and
210 audiologist, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in
211 the award of the certificate or endorsement. A local school
212 district or any private individual or entity may pay the cost of
213 completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement
214 for any employee of the school district described under paragraph
215 (a), and the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
216 school district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the
217 process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement.
218 If a private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing
219 the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an
220 employee, the local school district may agree to directly
221 reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the
222 employee.

223 (c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process
224 reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid
225 directly by the State Department of Education to the local school

226 district and shall be in addition to its minimum education program
227 allotments and not a part thereof in accordance with regulations
228 promulgated by the State Board of Education, and subject to
229 appropriation by the Legislature. Local school districts shall
230 not reduce the local supplement paid to any employee receiving
231 such salary supplement, and the employee shall receive any local
232 supplement to which employees with similar training and experience
233 otherwise are entitled.

234 (d) The State Department of Education may not pay any
235 process reimbursement to a school district for an employee who
236 does not complete the certification or endorsement process
237 required to be eligible for the certificate or endorsement. If an
238 employee for whom such cost has been paid in full or in part by a
239 local school district or private individual or entity fails to
240 complete the certification or endorsement process, the employee
241 shall be liable to the school district or individual or entity for
242 all amounts paid by the school district or individual or entity on
243 behalf of that employee toward his or her certificate or
244 endorsement.

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