

By: Senator(s) Harvey

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2736

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY THAT LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS MAY HAVE EXCUSED ABSENCES
3 FROM SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school
8 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount
9 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)
10 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in
11 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as
12 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the
13 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which
14 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods
15 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall
16 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible
17 for any state employee group insurance, retirement or other fringe
18 benefits. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary
19 expenses and mileage in attending meetings of the school board.
20 In addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for
21 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of
22 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board
23 training session or at regional and national education meetings,
24 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board
25 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be
26 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this

27 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section
28 25-3-41.

29 Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by
30 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school
31 district involved against the funds available for payment of the
32 administrative expense of the district.

33 (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent
34 (20%) or more of the meetings of the school board during a
35 calendar year, except for absences caused by illness, work
36 conflicts, required military duty, or other good cause as
37 determined by the school board, the member must reimburse the
38 school district that portion of the total salary paid to the
39 member that year which is proportionate to the number of meetings
40 missed by the member in relation to the total number of school
41 board meetings held during that year. For purposes of this
42 subsection, consideration may be given only to meetings of which
43 public notice is required.

44 (b) Before February 1 of each year, the president of
45 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board
46 of Education containing the names of any members of the school
47 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the school board
48 meetings during the preceding calendar year.

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