

By: Representative Clark

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 901

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 2006-2007 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, 2005.