

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1432

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI SAVE OUR CHILDREN ACT; TO
2 REQUIRE FAILING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN PROGRAMS IN
3 ORDER TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be called the "Mississippi Save
6 Our Children Act."

7 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Legislature recognizes:

8 (a) The need for positive reinforcement of higher
9 educational opportunities, social usages, family commitment and
10 spiritual development;

11 (b) That it is a difficult time in our society to raise
12 children;

13 (c) That many African-American parents in this day and
14 age, regardless of their socio-economic standard are facing the
15 same problems and that their children are out of control;

16 (d) That substance abuse, Internet pornography, rude
17 defiant behavior and authority issues are a few of the challenges
18 African-American parents and communities face each day;

19 (e) That parents work and labor on their children's
20 behalf, but there are just too many negative influences bombarding
21 children;

22 (f) That teenagers in crisis are difficult to reason
23 with, talk to and understand;

24 (g) That many parents allow out of control behavior to
25 escalate and continue because they do not know how to handle their
26 own children;

27 (h) That parents have a difficult time asking for
28 others to help because they feel like failures as parents;

29 (i) That our children are exposed to an environment
30 where drugs, violence, sex, money and peer pressure are an
31 ever-present force that affects both their behavior and perception
32 of life;

33 (j) That television, telephones, movies, radio and
34 video games are devastating to our children's success; and

35 (k) That many parents are guilty of protecting our
36 children from the consequences of their behavior.

37 (2) The Legislature believes that we must correct the
38 problems with our children and reverse this culture of failure
39 that leads to disproportionate minority confinement, teenage
40 pregnancy, truancy, unemployment, underemployment, drug abuse and
41 poverty. The Legislature believes that we must develop an agenda
42 that will help place life in a positive and productive perspective
43 for our children and assist our families in dealing with the
44 issues and problems that we are currently facing within our
45 communities.

46 **SECTION 3.** Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year and
47 every school year thereafter, a school district that receives a
48 Level 3 rating or below according to the Mississippi Report Card
49 as provided in Section 37-3-53 for the previous school year shall
50 implement the following programs:

51 (a) Mandatory school uniforms;

52 (b) Mandatory separation of the genders of students;

53 (c) Mandatory health and physical education classes for
54 middle school children;

55 (d) Mandatory home economics and social usage classes
56 for middle school children;

57 (e) Mandatory hiring of school resources officers;

58 (f) Mandatory hiring of school counselors;

59 (g) Implementing distance learning in areas of
60 mathematics, science, home economics and social usage and business
61 and entrepreneurship if the district does not have a competent
62 teacher available for these classes;

63 (h) Mandatory teaching of business and finance classes,
64 including offering an entrepreneurship competition;

65 (i) Mandatory spelling bees, mathematics bees and
66 science bees in every class; and

67 (j) Mandatory homework assignments every day in every
68 class from kindergarten through Grade 12. Homework shall include,
69 but is not limited to, a minimum of five (5) vocabulary words to
70 be learned from each class every week, including how to spell,
71 define and use each word in a sentence.

72 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 2005.