

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 320

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-4 AND 37-7-306, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO TRANSFER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL BOARD  
3 MEMBER BASIC TRAINING FROM THE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT  
4 INSTITUTE TO THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-3-4. (1) There is established within the State  
10 Department of Education, the School Executive Management  
11 Institute. The director shall be appointed by the State Board of  
12 Education upon recommendation by the State Superintendent of  
13 Public Education. The State Superintendent of Public Education,  
14 with the approval of the State Board of Education, shall assign  
15 sufficient staff members from the State Department of Education to  
16 the institute.

17 (2) It shall be the purpose and duty of the institute to  
18 conduct thorough empirical studies and analyses of the school  
19 management needs of the local school districts throughout the  
20 state, to make recommendations to the State Board of Education  
21 regarding standards and programs of training that aid in the  
22 development of administrative and management skills of local  
23 school administrators, and to conduct such programs related to  
24 these purposes as they are implemented under guidelines  
25 established by the State Board of Education.

26 (3) The State Board of Education shall develop and implement  
27 through the School Executive Management Institute a program for  
28 the development of administrative and management skills of local

29 school administrators under which all local school administrators  
30 shall be required to participate. Subject to the extent of  
31 appropriations available for such purpose, the School Executive  
32 Management Institute or the Mississippi School Boards Association  
33 shall be required to offer courses at least twice a year on the  
34 uses of technology to principals, superintendents and other  
35 administrative personnel. These courses shall relate to the  
36 application of technology to learning, as well as administrative  
37 problems.

38 (4) (a) The institute shall have an advisory board composed  
39 of ten (10) qualified members appointed by the State Board of  
40 Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of  
41 Public Education. This advisory board will offer recommendations  
42 to the institute on the types of training to be instituted and  
43 supported. The membership of the advisory board shall be composed  
44 of the following members, two (2) to be appointed from each  
45 congressional district: three (3) school administrators; one (1)  
46 representative of public community/junior colleges within the  
47 state; one (1) representative of a school of education in an  
48 institution of higher learning within the state; two (2) local  
49 school board members; one (1) classroom teacher; and two (2) lay  
50 persons. In making the initial appointments, three (3) members  
51 shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, three (3) members  
52 shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, two (2) members  
53 shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, and two (2)  
54 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years.  
55 Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of four (4)  
56 years. The advisory board shall meet when called by the director,  
57 but in no event fewer than three (3) times per year. The members  
58 of the advisory board shall be compensated at the per diem rate  
59 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and reimbursed for actual and  
60 necessary expenses as authorized by Section 25-3-41.

61           (b) Board members of the Oxford-Lafayette Business and  
62 Industrial Complex shall be paid per diem and reimbursed for  
63 expenses and mileage from local funds in accordance with Section  
64 37-6-13.

65           (5) (a) Basic Education Course. The Mississippi School  
66 Boards Association shall be responsible for preparing and  
67 conducting a course of training for basic education for the local  
68 school board members of this state, in order for board members to  
69 carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed to new  
70 ideas involving school restructuring. The basic course shall be  
71 known as the "School Board Member Training Course" and shall  
72 consist of at least twelve (12) hours of training. The  
73 Mississippi School Boards Association shall issue certificates of  
74 completion to those school board members who complete the basic  
75 education course.

76           (b) Continuing Education Course. The Mississippi  
77 School Boards Association shall be responsible for preparing and  
78 conducting a course of training for continuing education for the  
79 local school board members of this state, in order for board  
80 members to carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed  
81 to new ideas involving school restructuring. The continuing  
82 education course shall be known as the "Continuing Education  
83 Course for School Board Members" and shall consist of at least six  
84 (6) hours of training. The Mississippi School Boards Association  
85 shall issue certificates of completion to those school board  
86 members who complete the continuing education course.

87           All costs and expenses for preparing and conducting the basic  
88 education course and the continuing education course provided for  
89 in this paragraph shall be paid out of any funds which are made  
90 available to the Mississippi School Boards Association upon  
91 authorization and appropriation by the Legislature to the State  
92 Department of Education.

93           (6) The Mississippi School Boards Association shall prepare  
94 and submit a report each year to the State Board of Education and  
95 to the respective Chairs of the House and Senate Education  
96 Committees describing the activities and providing an evaluation  
97 of the continuing education programs offered by the association  
98 each year.

99           (7) The School Executive Management Institute of the State  
100 Department of Education, or the Mississippi School Boards  
101 Association with the oversight of the State Board of Education, at  
102 least twice a year, shall prepare and conduct required courses of  
103 training for continuing education for the elementary and secondary  
104 school principals of this state, in order for principals to carry  
105 out their duties more effectively and be exposed to new ideas  
106 involving school management. The continuing education course  
107 shall be known as the "Continuing Education Course for Principals"  
108 and shall consist of at least six (6) hours of training. The  
109 content of the continuing education courses and the time and place  
110 such courses are to be conducted shall be determined by the School  
111 Executive Management Institute or the Mississippi School Boards  
112 Association; however, to the extent practicable, such training  
113 sessions shall be held within geographical proximity of local  
114 districts in order that travel times and costs shall not be  
115 prohibitive.

116           The institute shall issue certificates of completion to those  
117 principals who complete such courses. All costs and expenses for  
118 preparing and conducting the basic and continuing education  
119 courses provided for in this subsection shall be paid out of any  
120 funds which are made available to the institute upon authorization  
121 and appropriation by the Legislature.

122           (8) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5  
123 accreditation requirements, the State Board of Education, in its  
124 discretion, may exempt the school superintendents, principals and

125 other administrators of such school district from the provisions  
126 of this section.

127         **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-306, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
128 amended as follows:

129         37-7-306. (1) Every school board member selected after July  
130 1, 2002, shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

131         (2) Every school board member selected after July 1, 1993,  
132 shall be required to complete a basic course of training and  
133 education for local school board members, in order for board  
134 members to carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed  
135 to new ideas involving school restructuring. Such basic course of  
136 training \* \* \* shall be conducted by the Mississippi School Boards  
137 Association. Upon completion of the basic course of training, the  
138 Mississippi School Boards Association shall file a certificate of  
139 completion for the school board member with the office of the  
140 local school board. In the event that a board member fails to  
141 complete such training within six (6) months of his selection,  
142 such board member shall no longer be qualified to serve and shall  
143 be removed from office.

144         (3) In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection  
145 (2) of this section, after taking office, each school board member  
146 shall be required to file annually in the office of the school  
147 board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing  
148 education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association.

149         (4) Every school board member selected after July 1, 2002,  
150 shall spend at least one (1) full day in a school in the district  
151 they represent, without compensation.

152         (5) Upon the failure of any local school board member to  
153 file with the school board the certificate of completion of the  
154 basic or continuing course of training as provided in subsection  
155 (2) or (3) of this section, the school board member shall be  
156 removed from office by the Attorney General. In the event of a  
157 medical or other catastrophic hardship that prevents such school

158 board member from obtaining the required training or filing such  
159 certificate, as may be defined by the Board of Directors of the  
160 Mississippi School Boards Association by rule and regulation, an  
161 additional period of three (3) months may be allowed to satisfy  
162 the requirements of subsection (2) or (3).

163         **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
164 and after July 1, 2006.