

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.