

By: Representative Martinson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 353

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS IN GRADES 1 THROUGH 3 BE TAUGHT THREE
3 HOURS OF READING EACH DAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-13-10. (1) The State Board of Education shall develop
8 and implement a Reading Sufficiency Program of Instruction
9 beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, designed to enable each
10 student to acquire the appropriate grade level of reading skills.

11 In order to implement the Reading Sufficiency Program of
12 Instruction, each local school board shall develop a Reading
13 Sufficiency Plan for its school district which may include the
14 following components:

15 (a) Sufficient additional in-school instructional time
16 for the development of reading and comprehension skills of the
17 student;

18 (b) Readiness intervention programs, such as
19 kindergarten programs, extended school day or school year
20 programs, and program initiatives to reduce class size;

21 (c) Utilization of research-based teaching
22 methodologies or strategies for providing direct instruction in
23 phonics, vocabulary and comprehension development, including
24 systematic, intensive, explicit phonics, using decodable
25 vocabulary-controlled texts (texts in which ninety-five percent
26 (95%) of the words are decodable), as is determined appropriate by
27 the State Board of Education; and

28 (d) Professional development for assistant teachers,
29 teachers and administrators to assist students in implementing the
30 Reading Sufficiency Program.

31 (2) Pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature
32 specifically for such purpose, the State Department of Education
33 shall provide in-service training, computer software and certified
34 reading instructor personnel for training local school district
35 certificated personnel to assist students in implementing the
36 Reading Sufficiency Program required under this section.

37 (3) The State Board of Education, beginning on January 1,
38 1999, and annually on January 1 of each succeeding year, shall
39 develop a report on the implementation of the Reading Sufficiency
40 Program in each school district as required under this section,
41 which shall include an assessment of the acquisition of reading
42 skills by each student for the appropriate grade level in which
43 the student is enrolled.

44 (4) Students in Grades 1 through 3 shall be taught three (3)
45 hours of reading each day.

46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2006.