

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 867

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (2) The Legislature believes that society itself must
39 correct the problems with children and reverse this culture of
40 failure that leads to disproportionate minority confinement,
41 teenage pregnancy, truancy, unemployment, underemployment, drug
42 abuse and poverty. The Legislature further believes that an
43 agenda that will help place life in a positive and productive
44 perspective for our children must be developed and assistance must
45 be provided to families in dealing with the issues and problems
46 that our state is currently facing within its communities.

47 **SECTION 3.** Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, a
48 school district that receives a Level 3 rating or below according
49 to the Mississippi Report Card required under Section 37-3-53 for
50 the previous school year must implement the following programs:

51 (a) Mandatory school uniforms;

52 (b) Mandatory separation of students by gender;

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) Distance learning in areas of mathematics, science,
60 home economics and social usage and business and entrepreneurship

61 if the district does not have a competent teacher available for
62 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 must include,
69 but not necessarily be limited to, a minimum of five (5)
70 vocabulary words to be learned from each class every week,
71 including how to spell, 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, 2006.