

By: Senator(s) Doxey

To: Insurance;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2176

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-15-3 AND 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS IN THE  
3 STATE AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 **[Through June 30 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**  
9 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**  
10 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

11 25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and  
12 phrases used herein shall have the following meanings:

13 (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for  
14 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct  
15 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state  
16 government and any person who works full time for any school  
17 district, community/junior college, public library or  
18 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for  
19 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children or any regular  
20 nonstudent bus driver, and members of the school board of any  
21 school district. This shall include legislators, employees of the  
22 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state and  
23 "employees" shall include full-time salaried judges and full-time  
24 district attorneys and their staff and full-time compulsory school  
25 attendance officers. For the purposes of this article, any  
26 "employee" making contributions to the State of Mississippi  
27 retirement plan shall be considered a full-time employee.

28           (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and  
29 Administration.

30           (c) "Plan" means the State and School Employees Life  
31 and Health Insurance Plan created under this article.

32           (d) "Fund" means the State and School Employees  
33 Insurance Fund set up under this article.

34           (e) "Retiree" means any employee retired under the  
35 Mississippi retirement plan.

36           (f) "Board" means the State and School Employees Health  
37 Insurance Management Board created under Section 25-15-303.

38           **[From and after July 1 of the year in which Section 25-11-143**  
39 **becomes effective as provided in subsection (1) of Section**  
40 **25-11-143, this section shall read as follows:]**

41           25-15-3. For the purposes of this article, the words and  
42 phrases used in this section shall have the following meanings:

43           (a) "Employee" means a person who works full time for  
44 the State of Mississippi and receives his compensation in a direct  
45 payment from a department, agency or institution of the state  
46 government, and any person who works full time for any school  
47 district, community/junior college, public library,  
48 university-based program authorized under Section 37-23-31 for  
49 deaf, aphasic and emotionally disturbed children, or any regular  
50 nonstudent bus driver, and members of the school board of any  
51 school district. This term includes legislators, employees of the  
52 legislative branch and the judicial branch of the state, full-time  
53 salaried judges and full-time district attorneys and their staff,  
54 and full-time compulsory school attendance officers. For the  
55 purposes of this article, any "employee" making contributions to  
56 the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Highway Safety  
57 Patrol Retirement System shall be considered a full-time employee.

58           (b) "Department" means the Department of Finance and  
59 Administration.

60 (c) "Plan" means the State and School Employees Life  
61 and Health Insurance Plan created under this article.

62 (d) "Fund" means the State and School Employees  
63 Insurance Fund set up under this article.

64 (e) "Board" means the State and School Employees Health  
65 Insurance Management Board created under Section 25-15-303.

66 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
67 amended as follows:

68 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school  
69 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount  
70 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)  
71 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in  
72 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as  
73 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the  
74 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which  
75 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods  
76 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall  
77 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible  
78 for any \* \* \* retirement \* \* \* benefits, however, any member of  
79 the school board may elect to enroll in the State and School  
80 Employees Health Insurance Plan created under Section 25-15-3 et  
81 seq. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary expenses  
82 and mileage in attending meetings of the school board. In  
83 addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for  
84 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of  
85 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board  
86 training session or at regional and national education meetings,  
87 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board  
88 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be  
89 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this  
90 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section  
91 25-3-41.

92           Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by  
93 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school  
94 district involved against the funds available for payment of the  
95 administrative expense of the district.

96           (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent  
97 (20%) or more of the meetings of the school board during a  
98 calendar year, except for absences caused by required military  
99 duty, the member must reimburse the school district that portion  
100 of the total salary paid to the member that year which is  
101 proportionate to the number of meetings missed by the member in  
102 relation to the total number of school board meetings held during  
103 that year. For purposes of this subsection, consideration may be  
104 given only to meetings of which public notice is required.

105           (b) Before February 1 of each year, the president of  
106 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board  
107 of Education containing the names of any members of the school  
108 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the school board  
109 meetings during the preceding calendar year.

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