

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2215

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-59-17 AND 37-59-105, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT 55% OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS VOTING  
3 ON THE QUESTION OF ISSUANCE OF SCHOOL BONDS OR CERTIFICATES OF  
4 INDEBTEDNESS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO APPROVE THE ISSUING OF SUCH  
5 BONDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-59-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-59-17. When the results of the election on the question  
10 of the issuance of such bonds shall have been canvassed by the  
11 election commissioners of such county or municipality, and  
12 certified by them to the school board of the school district, it  
13 shall be the duty of such school board to determine and adjudicate  
14 whether or not fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified electors  
15 who voted in such election voted in favor of the issuance of such  
16 bonds. Unless fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified electors  
17 who voted in such election shall have voted in favor of the  
18 issuance of such bonds, then such bonds shall not be issued.  
19 Should fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified electors who vote  
20 in such election vote in favor of the issuance of such bonds, then  
21 the school board of such school district shall issue such bonds,  
22 either in whole or in part, within two (2) years from the date of  
23 such election, or within two (2) years after the final favorable  
24 termination of any litigation affecting the issuance of such  
25 bonds, as such school board shall deem best.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-59-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
27 amended as follows:

28           37-59-105. The said resolution adopted by the school board  
29 pursuant to Section 37-59-103 shall be published once each week  
30 for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper having a general  
31 circulation in the school district involved, with the first  
32 publication thereof to be made not less than fifteen (15) days  
33 prior to the date upon which the school board is to take final  
34 action upon the question of authorizing the borrowing of said  
35 money. If no petition requesting an election is filed prior to  
36 such meeting, then the school board shall, at said meeting, by  
37 resolution spread upon its minutes, give final approval to the  
38 borrowing of said money and shall authorize the issuance of  
39 negotiable notes or certificates of indebtedness of the school  
40 district therefor in accordance with the provisions of this  
41 article.

42           If at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not  
43 less than twenty percent (20%) of the qualified electors of the  
44 school district involved shall be filed with the school board  
45 requesting that an election be called on the question of incurring  
46 said indebtedness, then the school board shall, not later than the  
47 next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be  
48 held within such school district upon the question of the  
49 incurring of said indebtedness for the purposes and in the amount  
50 requested. Such election shall be called and held, and notice  
51 thereof shall be given, in the same manner provided in Article 1  
52 of this chapter for elections upon the question of the issuance of  
53 the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be  
54 certified to the school board. If fifty-five percent (55%) of the  
55 qualified electors voting in said election shall vote in favor of  
56 incurring said indebtedness, then the school board shall proceed  
57 to issue said negotiable notes or certificates of indebtedness as  
58 prayed for in the original resolution of the school board;  
59 however, if less than fifty-five percent (55%) of the qualified  
60 electors voting in said election vote in favor of incurring said

61 indebtedness, then said notes or certificates of indebtedness  
62 shall not be issued.

63 Money may be borrowed under the provisions of this article  
64 and the negotiable notes or certificates of indebtedness  
65 evidencing same may be issued as provided in this article (a)  
66 without the necessity of being authorized in an election called  
67 for that purpose, except where a petition requesting an election  
68 is filed as provided herein and (b) without the necessity of  
69 giving notice thereof except as specifically provided herein, and  
70 specifically without the necessity of complying with the  
71 requirements of Section 31-19-25.

72 **SECTION 3.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
73 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
74 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
75 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
76 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
77 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
78 extended.

79 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
80 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
81 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.