

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2298

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT PREPARATION TO TEACH GRADES K-12 IN
2 MISSISSIPPI SHALL REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE COURSE OF STUDY IN SERVICES
3 TO BE PROVIDED BY SCHOOLS TO SPECIAL POPULATION STUDENTS UNDER THE
4 FEDERAL IDEA; TO AMEND SECTION 37-17-8, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
5 TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S IN-SERVICE STAFF DEVELOPMENT
6 PLANS TO INCLUDE TRAINING FOR SUCH SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE
7 REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Recognizing teaching as a profession, preparation
10 to teach in Mississippi Kindergarten through Grades 12 shall
11 include at least one (1) course of study in age appropriate
12 services to be provided by schools to special population students
13 as required by the federal IDEA law and state law and regulations.
14 It shall be a requirement for any person to be certified as a
15 teacher in Mississippi after July 1, 2006, that such person meet
16 and comply with the requirements of this section.

17 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-17-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:

19 37-17-8. (1) The State Board of Education, through the
20 Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish criteria for
21 comprehensive in-service staff development plans. These criteria
22 shall: (a) include, but not be limited to, formula and guidelines
23 for allocating available state funds for in-service training to
24 local school districts; (b) require that a portion of the plans
25 be devoted exclusively for the purpose of providing staff
development training for beginning teachers within that local
school district and for no other purpose; * * * (c) require that a
portion of the school district's in-service training for
administrators and teachers be dedicated to the application and

30 utilization of various disciplinary techniques; and (d) require
31 that a portion of the school district's in-service training for
32 administrators and teachers be dedicated to the required services
33 to be provided to special population students under the federal
34 IDEA law and state statutes and regulations. The board shall each
35 year make recommendations to the Legislature concerning the amount
36 of funds which shall be appropriated for this purpose.

37 (2) Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, school
38 districts shall not be required to submit staff development plans
39 to the Commission on School Accreditation for approval. However,
40 any school district accredited at Level 1 or Level 2 shall
41 include, as a part of any required corrective action plan,
42 provisions to address staff development in accordance with State
43 Board of Education requirements. All school districts, unless
44 specifically exempt from this section, must maintain on file staff
45 development plans as required under this section. The plan shall
46 have been prepared by a district committee appointed by the
47 district superintendent and consisting of teachers,
48 administrators, school board members, and lay people, and it shall
49 have been approved by the district superintendent.

50 (3) In order to insure that teachers are not overburdened
51 with paperwork and written reports, local school districts and
52 the State Board of Education shall take such steps as may be
53 necessary to further the reduction of paperwork requirements on
54 teachers.

55 (4) If any school district meets Level 4 or 5 accreditation
56 standards, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may
57 exempt such school district from the provisions of this section.

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