

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 883

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-93, 37-7-301, 37-9-77,
2 37-11-54, 37-11-61 AND 37-15-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
3 DELETE THE AUTOMATIC REPEALERS ON CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS
4 RELATING TO SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
5 AGENCIES, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SABBATICAL LEAVE, EXPULSION OF
6 HABITUALLY DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEER
7 MEDIATION CURRICULA, PARENTAL INFORMATION ON MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE
8 AND EVIDENCE OF AGE FOR PUPIL ENROLLMENT; AND FOR RELATED
9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 37-3-93. (1) Subject to the availability of funding
14 specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a
15 School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of
16 Education. This program is to be initiated and executed by the
17 department using only existing staff and resources. Under this
18 program, the State Department of Education shall create an office
19 making available a quick response team of personnel trained in
20 school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or
21 violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public
22 schools in Mississippi. The School Crisis Management Program
23 shall operate in accordance with the following:

24 (a) The basic response team shall consist of those
25 personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Public
26 Education, or their designees, depending on the size of the school
27 and the nature of the event.

28 (b) In order to access the services of a response team,
29 the request must be made by the local school principal or the

30 superintendent of schools, who shall make the request to the State
31 Department of Education or its contact designee.

32 (c) A response team shall enter a school to work with
33 students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days,
34 unless otherwise requested by the school district.

35 (d) The State Department of Education, or its designee,
36 shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area telephone service for
37 the purpose of receiving reports of suspected cases of school
38 violence and other traumatic situations impacting on students and
39 faculty in the public schools.

40 (e) The request made by a school district to access the
41 services of a response team following a school safety incident may
42 seek a review of the local school district's safety plan, and the
43 results of this evaluation may be published by the local school
44 board in a newspaper with wide circulation in the district.

45 (f) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
46 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the expenses of the
47 quick response teams and their administrative support shall be
48 provided from state funds. The State Department of Education may
49 apply for and expend funds for the support and maintenance of this
50 program from private and other funding sources.

51 (2) Local school districts, school superintendents and
52 principals may request and utilize the services of quick response
53 teams provided for under this section; however, this section does
54 not require school officials to request the services of quick
55 response teams.

56 * * *

57 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
58 amended as follows:

59 37-7-301. The school boards of all school districts shall
60 have the following powers, authority and duties in addition to all
61 others imposed or granted by law, to wit:

62 (a) To organize and operate the schools of the district
63 and to make such division between the high school grades and
64 elementary grades as, in their judgment, will serve the best
65 interests of the school;

66 (b) To introduce public school music, art, manual
67 training and other special subjects into either the elementary or
68 high school grades, as the board shall deem proper;

69 (c) To be the custodians of real and personal school
70 property and to manage, control and care for same, both during the
71 school term and during vacation;

72 (d) To have responsibility for the erection, repairing
73 and equipping of school facilities and the making of necessary
74 school improvements;

75 (e) To suspend or to expel a pupil or to change the
76 placement of a pupil to the school district's alternative school
77 or homebound program for misconduct in the school or on school
78 property, as defined in Section 37-11-29, on the road to and from
79 school, or at any school-related activity or event, or for conduct
80 occurring on property other than school property or other than at
81 a school-related activity or event when such conduct by a pupil,
82 in the determination of the school superintendent or principal,
83 renders that pupil's presence in the classroom a disruption to the
84 educational environment of the school or a detriment to the best
85 interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a
86 whole, and to delegate such authority to the appropriate officials
87 of the school district;

88 (f) To visit schools in the district, in their
89 discretion, in a body for the purpose of determining what can be
90 done for the improvement of the school in a general way;

91 (g) To support, within reasonable limits, the
92 superintendent, principal and teachers where necessary for the
93 proper discipline of the school;

94 (h) To exclude from the schools students with what
95 appears to be infectious or contagious diseases; provided,
96 however, such student may be allowed to return to school upon
97 presenting a certificate from a public health officer, duly
98 licensed physician or nurse practitioner that the student is free
99 from such disease;

100 (i) To require those vaccinations specified by the
101 State Health Officer as provided in Section 41-23-37;

102 (j) To see that all necessary utilities and services
103 are provided in the schools at all times when same are needed;

104 (k) To authorize the use of the school buildings and
105 grounds for the holding of public meetings and gatherings of the
106 people under such regulations as may be prescribed by said board;

107 (l) To prescribe and enforce rules and regulations not
108 inconsistent with law or with the regulations of the State Board
109 of Education for their own government and for the government of
110 the schools, and to transact their business at regular and special
111 meetings called and held in the manner provided by law;

112 (m) To maintain and operate all of the schools under
113 their control for such length of time during the year as may be
114 required;

115 (n) To enforce in the schools the courses of study and
116 the use of the textbooks prescribed by the proper authorities;

117 (o) To make orders directed to the superintendent of
118 schools for the issuance of pay certificates for lawful purposes
119 on any available funds of the district and to have full control of
120 the receipt, distribution, allotment and disbursement of all funds
121 provided for the support and operation of the schools of such
122 school district whether such funds be derived from state
123 appropriations, local ad valorem tax collections, or otherwise.
124 The local school board shall be authorized and empowered to
125 promulgate rules and regulations that specify the types of claims
126 and set limits of the dollar amount for payment of claims by the

127 superintendent of schools to be ratified by the board at the next
128 regularly scheduled meeting after payment has been made;

129 (p) To select all school district personnel in the
130 manner provided by law, and to provide for such employee fringe
131 benefit programs, including accident reimbursement plans, as may
132 be deemed necessary and appropriate by the board;

133 (q) To provide athletic programs and other school
134 activities and to regulate the establishment and operation of such
135 programs and activities;

136 (r) To join, in their discretion, any association of
137 school boards and other public school-related organizations, and
138 to pay from local funds other than minimum foundation funds, any
139 membership dues;

140 (s) To expend local school activity funds, or other
141 available school district funds, other than minimum education
142 program funds, for the purposes prescribed under this paragraph.
143 "Activity funds" shall mean all funds received by school officials
144 in all school districts paid or collected to participate in any
145 school activity, such activity being part of the school program
146 and partially financed with public funds or supplemented by public
147 funds. The term "activity funds" shall not include any funds
148 raised and/or expended by any organization unless commingled in a
149 bank account with existing activity funds, regardless of whether
150 the funds were raised by school employees or received by school
151 employees during school hours or using school facilities, and
152 regardless of whether a school employee exercises influence over
153 the expenditure or disposition of such funds. Organizations shall
154 not be required to make any payment to any school for the use of
155 any school facility if, in the discretion of the local school
156 governing board, the organization's function shall be deemed to be
157 beneficial to the official or extracurricular programs of the
158 school. For the purposes of this provision, the term
159 "organization" shall not include any organization subject to the

160 control of the local school governing board. Activity funds may
161 only be expended for any necessary expenses or travel costs,
162 including advances, incurred by students and their chaperons in
163 attending any in-state or out-of-state school-related programs,
164 conventions or seminars and/or any commodities, equipment, travel
165 expenses, purchased services or school supplies which the local
166 school governing board, in its discretion, shall deem beneficial
167 to the official or extracurricular programs of the district,
168 including items which may subsequently become the personal
169 property of individuals, including yearbooks, athletic apparel,
170 book covers and trophies. Activity funds may be used to pay
171 travel expenses of school district personnel. The local school
172 governing board shall be authorized and empowered to promulgate
173 rules and regulations specifically designating for what purposes
174 school activity funds may be expended. The local school governing
175 board shall provide (i) that such school activity funds shall be
176 maintained and expended by the principal of the school generating
177 the funds in individual bank accounts, or (ii) that such school
178 activity funds shall be maintained and expended by the
179 superintendent of schools in a central depository approved by the
180 board. The local school governing board shall provide that such
181 school activity funds be audited as part of the annual audit
182 required in Section 37-9-18. The State Department of Education
183 shall prescribe a uniform system of accounting and financial
184 reporting for all school activity fund transactions;

185 (t) To contract, on a shared savings, lease or
186 lease-purchase basis, for energy efficiency services and/or
187 equipment as provided for in Section 31-7-14, not to exceed ten
188 (10) years;

189 (u) To maintain accounts and issue pay certificates on
190 school food service bank accounts;

191 (v) (i) To lease a school building from an individual,
192 partnership, nonprofit corporation or a private for-profit

193 corporation for the use of such school district, and to expend
194 funds therefor as may be available from any nonminimum program
195 sources. The school board of the school district desiring to
196 lease a school building shall declare by resolution that a need
197 exists for a school building and that the school district cannot
198 provide the necessary funds to pay the cost or its proportionate
199 share of the cost of a school building required to meet the
200 present needs. The resolution so adopted by the school board
201 shall be published once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks
202 in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district
203 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less
204 than thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the school
205 board is to act on the question of leasing a school building. If
206 no petition requesting an election is filed prior to such meeting
207 as hereinafter provided, then the school board may, by resolution
208 spread upon its minutes, proceed to lease a school building. If
209 at any time prior to said meeting a petition signed by not less
210 than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500), whichever is
211 less, of the qualified electors of the school district involved
212 shall be filed with the school board requesting that an election
213 be called on the question, then the school board shall, not later
214 than the next regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an
215 election to be held within such school district upon the question
216 of authorizing the school board to lease a school building. Such
217 election shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be
218 given, in the same manner for elections upon the questions of the
219 issuance of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof
220 shall be certified to the school board. If at least three-fifths
221 (3/5) of the qualified electors of the school district who voted
222 in such election shall vote in favor of the leasing of a school
223 building, then the school board shall proceed to lease a school
224 building. The term of the lease contract shall not exceed twenty
225 (20) years, and the total cost of such lease shall be either the

226 amount of the lowest and best bid accepted by the school board
227 after advertisement for bids or an amount not to exceed the
228 current fair market value of the lease as determined by the
229 averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by certified general
230 appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi. The term "school
231 building" as used in this paragraph (v)(i) shall be construed to
232 mean any building or buildings used for classroom purposes in
233 connection with the operation of schools and shall include the
234 site therefor, necessary support facilities, and the equipment
235 thereof and appurtenances thereto such as heating facilities,
236 water supply, sewage disposal, landscaping, walks, drives and
237 playgrounds. The term "lease" as used in this paragraph (v)(i)
238 may include a lease/purchase contract;

239 (ii) If two (2) or more school districts propose
240 to enter into a lease contract jointly, then joint meetings of the
241 school boards having control may be held but no action taken shall
242 be binding on any such school district unless the question of
243 leasing a school building is approved in each participating school
244 district under the procedure hereinabove set forth in paragraph
245 (v)(i). All of the provisions of paragraph (v)(i) regarding the
246 term and amount of the lease contract shall apply to the school
247 boards of school districts acting jointly. Any lease contract
248 executed by two (2) or more school districts as joint lessees
249 shall set out the amount of the aggregate lease rental to be paid
250 by each, which may be agreed upon, but there shall be no right of
251 occupancy by any lessee unless the aggregate rental is paid as
252 stipulated in the lease contract. All rights of joint lessees
253 under the lease contract shall be in proportion to the amount of
254 lease rental paid by each;

255 (w) To employ all noninstructional and noncertificated
256 employees and fix the duties and compensation of such personnel
257 deemed necessary pursuant to the recommendation of the
258 superintendent of schools;

259 (x) To employ and fix the duties and compensation of
260 such legal counsel as deemed necessary;

261 (y) Subject to rules and regulations of the State Board
262 of Education, to purchase, own and operate trucks, vans and other
263 motor vehicles, which shall bear the proper identification
264 required by law;

265 (z) To expend funds for the payment of substitute
266 teachers and to adopt reasonable regulations for the employment
267 and compensation of such substitute teachers;

268 (aa) To acquire in its own name by purchase all real
269 property which shall be necessary and desirable in connection with
270 the construction, renovation or improvement of any public school
271 building or structure. Whenever the purchase price for such real
272 property is greater than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), the
273 school board shall not purchase the property for an amount
274 exceeding the fair market value of such property as determined by
275 the average of at least two (2) independent appraisals by
276 certified general appraisers licensed by the State of Mississippi.
277 If the board shall be unable to agree with the owner of any such
278 real property in connection with any such project, the board shall
279 have the power and authority to acquire any such real property by
280 condemnation proceedings pursuant to Section 11-27-1 et seq.,
281 Mississippi Code of 1972, and for such purpose, the right of
282 eminent domain is hereby conferred upon and vested in said board.
283 Provided further, that the local school board is authorized to
284 grant an easement for ingress and egress over sixteenth section
285 land or lieu land in exchange for a similar easement upon
286 adjoining land where the exchange of easements affords substantial
287 benefit to the sixteenth section land; provided, however, the
288 exchange must be based upon values as determined by a competent
289 appraiser, with any differential in value to be adjusted by cash
290 payment. Any easement rights granted over sixteenth section land
291 under such authority shall terminate when the easement ceases to

292 be used for its stated purpose. No sixteenth section or lieu land
293 which is subject to an existing lease shall be burdened by any
294 such easement except by consent of the lessee or unless the school
295 district shall acquire the unexpired leasehold interest affected
296 by the easement;

297 (bb) To charge reasonable fees related to the
298 educational programs of the district, in the manner prescribed in
299 Section 37-7-335;

300 (cc) Subject to rules and regulations of the State
301 Board of Education, to purchase relocatable classrooms for the use
302 of such school district, in the manner prescribed in Section
303 37-1-13;

304 (dd) Enter into contracts or agreements with other
305 school districts, political subdivisions or governmental entities
306 to carry out one or more of the powers or duties of the school
307 board, or to allow more efficient utilization of limited resources
308 for providing services to the public;

309 (ee) To provide for in-service training for employees
310 of the district;

311 (ff) As part of their duties to prescribe the use of
312 textbooks, to provide that parents and legal guardians shall be
313 responsible for the textbooks and for the compensation to the
314 school district for any books which are not returned to the proper
315 schools upon the withdrawal of their dependent child. If a
316 textbook is lost or not returned by any student who drops out of
317 the public school district, the parent or legal guardian shall
318 also compensate the school district for the fair market value of
319 the textbooks;

320 (gg) To conduct fund-raising activities on behalf of
321 the school district that the local school board, in its
322 discretion, deems appropriate or beneficial to the official or
323 extracurricular programs of the district; provided that:

324 (i) Any proceeds of the fund-raising activities
325 shall be treated as "activity funds" and shall be accounted for as
326 are other activity funds under this section; and

327 (ii) Fund-raising activities conducted or
328 authorized by the board for the sale of school pictures, the
329 rental of caps and gowns or the sale of graduation invitations for
330 which the school board receives a commission, rebate or fee shall
331 contain a disclosure statement advising that a portion of the
332 proceeds of the sales or rentals shall be contributed to the
333 student activity fund;

334 (hh) To allow individual lessons for music, art and
335 other curriculum-related activities for academic credit or
336 nonacademic credit during school hours and using school equipment
337 and facilities, subject to uniform rules and regulations adopted
338 by the school board;

339 (ii) To charge reasonable fees for participating in an
340 extracurricular activity for academic or nonacademic credit for
341 necessary and required equipment such as safety equipment, band
342 instruments and uniforms;

343 (jj) To conduct or participate in any fund-raising
344 activities on behalf of or in connection with a tax-exempt
345 charitable organization;

346 (kk) To exercise such powers as may be reasonably
347 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

348 (ll) To expend funds for the services of nonprofit arts
349 organizations or other such nonprofit organizations who provide
350 performances or other services for the students of the school
351 district;

352 (mm) To expend federal No Child Left Behind Act funds,
353 or any other available funds that are expressly designated and
354 authorized for that use, to pay training, educational expenses,
355 salary incentives and salary supplements to employees of local
356 school districts; except that incentives shall not be considered

357 part of the local supplement as defined in Section 37-151-5(o),
358 nor shall incentives be considered part of the local supplement
359 paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of Section
360 37-19-7(1). Mississippi Adequate Education Program funds or any
361 other state funds may not be used for salary incentives or salary
362 supplements as provided in this paragraph (mm);

363 (nn) To use any available funds, not appropriated or
364 designated for any other purpose, for reimbursement to the
365 state-licensed employees from both in state and out of state, who
366 enter into a contract for employment in a school district, for the
367 expense of moving when the employment necessitates the relocation
368 of the licensed employee to a different geographical area than
369 that in which the licensed employee resides before entering into
370 the contract. The reimbursement shall not exceed One Thousand
371 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the documented actual expenses incurred in
372 the course of relocating, including the expense of any
373 professional moving company or persons employed to assist with the
374 move, rented moving vehicles or equipment, mileage in the amount
375 authorized for county and municipal employees under Section
376 25-3-41 if the licensed employee used his personal vehicle or
377 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated
378 with the relocation. No licensed employee may be reimbursed for
379 moving expenses under this section on more than one (1) occasion
380 by the same school district. Nothing in this section shall be
381 construed to require the actual residence to which the licensed
382 employee relocates to be within the boundaries of the school
383 district that has executed a contract for employment in order for
384 the licensed employee to be eligible for reimbursement for the
385 moving expenses. However, the licensed employee must relocate
386 within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi. Any individual
387 receiving relocation assistance through the Critical Teacher
388 Shortage Act as provided in Section 37-159-5 shall not be eligible

389 to receive additional relocation funds as authorized in this
390 paragraph;

391 (oo) To use any available funds, not appropriated or
392 designated for any other purpose, to reimburse persons who
393 interview for employment as a licensed employee with the district
394 for the mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course
395 of travel to and from the interview at the rate authorized for
396 county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41;

397 (pp) Consistent with the report of the Task Force to
398 Conduct a Best Financial Management Practices Review, to improve
399 school district management and use of resources and identify cost
400 savings as established in Section 8 of Chapter 610, Laws of 2002,
401 local school boards are encouraged to conduct independent reviews
402 of the management and efficiency of schools and school districts.
403 Such management and efficiency reviews shall provide state and
404 local officials and the public with the following:

405 (i) An assessment of a school district's
406 governance and organizational structure;

407 (ii) An assessment of the school district's
408 financial and personnel management;

409 (iii) An assessment of revenue levels and sources;

410 (iv) An assessment of facilities utilization,
411 planning and maintenance;

412 (v) An assessment of food services, transportation
413 and safety/security systems;

414 (vi) An assessment of instructional and
415 administrative technology;

416 (vii) A review of the instructional management and
417 the efficiency and effectiveness of existing instructional
418 programs; and

419 (viii) Recommended methods for increasing
420 efficiency and effectiveness in providing educational services to
421 the public;

422 (qq) To enter into agreements with other local school
423 boards for the establishment of an educational service agency
424 (ESA) to provide for the cooperative needs of the region in which
425 the school district is located, as provided in Section
426 37-7-345. * * *

427 (rr) To implement a financial literacy program for
428 students in Grades 10 and 11. The board may review the national
429 programs and obtain free literature from various nationally
430 recognized programs. After review of the different programs, the
431 board may certify a program that is most appropriate for the
432 school districts' needs. If a district implements a financial
433 literacy program, then any student in Grade 10 or 11 may
434 participate in the program. The financial literacy program shall
435 include, but is not limited to, instruction in the same areas of
436 personal business and finance as required under Section
437 37-1-3(2)(b). The school board may coordinate with volunteer
438 teachers from local community organizations, including, but not
439 limited to, the following: United States Department of
440 Agriculture Rural Development, United States Department of Housing
441 and Urban Development, Junior Achievement, bankers and other
442 nonprofit organizations. Nothing in this paragraph shall be
443 construed as to require school boards to implement a financial
444 literacy program;

445 (ss) To collaborate with the State Board of Education,
446 Community Action Agencies or the Department of Human Services to
447 develop and implement a voluntary program to provide services for
448 a full-day prekindergarten program that addresses the cognitive,
449 social, and emotional needs of four-year-old and three-year-old
450 children, after determining the potential impact on parental
451 employment and the availability of a full-time workforce to
452 support local business and industry. The school board may utilize
453 nonstate source special funds, grants, donations or gifts to fund
454 the voluntary program;

455 (tt) With respect to any lawful, written obligation of
456 a school district, including, but not limited to, leases
457 (excluding leases of sixteenth section public school trust land),
458 bonds, notes, or other agreement, to agree in writing with the
459 obligee that the State Tax Commission or any state agency,
460 department or commission created under state law may:

461 (i) Withhold all or any part (as agreed by the
462 school board) of any monies which such local school board is
463 entitled to receive from time to time under any law and which is
464 in the possession of the State Tax Commission, or any state
465 agency, department or commission created under state law; and

466 (ii) Pay the same over to any financial
467 institution, trustee or other obligee, as directed in writing by
468 the school board, to satisfy all or part of such obligation of the
469 school district.

470 The school board may make such written agreement to withhold
471 and transfer funds irrevocable for the term of the written
472 obligation and may include in the written agreement any other
473 terms and provisions acceptable to the school board. If the
474 school board files a copy of such written agreement with the State
475 Tax Commission, or any state agency, department or commission
476 created under state law then the State Tax Commission or any state
477 agency, department or commission created under state law shall
478 immediately make the withholdings provided in such agreement from
479 the amounts due the local school board and shall continue to pay
480 the same over to such financial institution, trustee or obligee
481 for the term of the agreement.

482 This paragraph (tt) shall not grant any extra authority to a
483 school board to issue debt in any amount exceeding statutory
484 limitations on assessed value of taxable property within such
485 school district or the statutory limitations on debt maturities,
486 and shall not grant any extra authority to impose, levy or collect
487 a tax which is not otherwise expressly provided for, and shall not

488 be construed to apply to sixteenth section public school trust
489 land;

490 (uu) With respect to any matter or transaction that is
491 competitively bid by a school district, to accept from any bidder
492 as a good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety, the same type
493 of good faith deposit or bid bond or bid surety that may be
494 accepted by the state or any other political subdivision on
495 similar competitively bid matters or transactions. This paragraph
496 (uu) shall not be construed to apply to sixteenth section public
497 school trust land. The school board may authorize the investment
498 of any school district funds in the same kind and manner of
499 investments, including pooled investments, as any other political
500 subdivision, including community hospitals;

501 (vv) To utilize the alternate method for the conveyance
502 or exchange of unused school buildings and/or land, reserving a
503 partial or other undivided interest in the property, as
504 specifically authorized and provided in Section 37-7-485,
505 Mississippi Code of 1972;

506 (ww) To delegate, privatize or otherwise enter into a
507 contract with private entities for the operation of any and all
508 functions of nonacademic school process, procedures and operations
509 including, but not limited to, cafeteria workers, janitorial
510 services, transportation, professional development, achievement
511 and instructional consulting services materials and products,
512 purchasing cooperatives, insurance, business manager services,
513 auditing and accounting services, school safety/risk prevention,
514 data processing and student records, and other staff services;
515 however, the authority under this paragraph does not apply to the
516 leasing, management or operation of sixteenth section lands.
517 Local school districts, working through their regional education
518 service agency, are encouraged to enter into buying consortia with
519 other member districts for the purposes of more efficient use of
520 state resources as described in Section 37-7-345;

521 (xx) To partner with entities, organizations and
522 corporations for the purpose of benefiting the school district;
523 and

524 (yy) To borrow funds from the Rural Economic
525 Development Authority for the maintenance of school buildings.

526 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-9-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
527 amended as follows:

528 37-9-77. (1) There is established the Mississippi School
529 Administrator Sabbatical Program which shall be available to
530 licensed teachers employed in Mississippi school districts for not
531 less than three (3) years, for the purpose of allowing such
532 teachers to become local school district administrators under the
533 conditions set forth in this section. The State Board of
534 Education, in coordination with the Board of Trustees of State
535 Institutions of Higher Learning, shall develop guidelines for the
536 program. Application shall be made to the State Department of
537 Education for the Mississippi School Administrator Sabbatical
538 Program by qualified teachers meeting the criteria for a
539 department-approved administration program and who have been
540 recommended by the local school board. Administration programs
541 that are eligible for the administrator sabbatical program shall
542 be limited to those that have been approved by the department by
543 the January 1 preceding the date of admission to the program.
544 Admission into the program shall authorize the applicant to take
545 university course work and training leading to an administrator's
546 license.

547 (2) The salaries of the teachers approved for participation
548 in the administrator sabbatical program shall be paid by the
549 employing school district from nonminimum education program funds.
550 However, the State Department of Education shall reimburse the
551 employing school districts for the cost of the salaries and paid
552 fringe benefits of teachers participating in the administrator
553 sabbatical program for one (1) contract year. Reimbursement shall

554 be made in accordance with the then current minimum education
555 program salary schedule under Section 37-19-7, except that the
556 maximum amount of the reimbursement from state funds shall not
557 exceed the minimum education program salary for a teacher holding
558 a Class A license and having five (5) years' experience. The
559 local school district shall be responsible for that portion of a
560 participating teacher's salary attributable to the local
561 supplement and for any portion of the teacher's salary that
562 exceeds the maximum amount allowed for reimbursement from state
563 funds as provided in this subsection, and the school board may not
564 reduce the local supplement payable to that teacher. Any
565 reimbursements made by the State Department of Education to local
566 school districts under this section shall be subject to available
567 appropriations and may be made only to school districts determined
568 by the State Board of Education as being in need of
569 administrators.

570 (3) Such teachers participating in the program on a
571 full-time basis shall continue to receive teaching experience and
572 shall receive the salary prescribed in Section 37-19-7, including
573 the annual experience increments. Such participants shall be
574 fully eligible to continue participation in the Public Employees'
575 Retirement System and the Public School Employees Health Insurance
576 Plan during the time they are in the program on a full-time basis.

577 (4) As a condition for participation in the School
578 Administrator Sabbatical Program, such teachers shall agree to
579 employment as administrators in the sponsoring school district for
580 not less than five (5) years following completion of administrator
581 licensure requirements. Any person failing to comply with this
582 employment commitment in any required school year, unless the
583 commitment is deferred as provided in subsection (5) of this
584 section, shall immediately be in breach of contract and become
585 liable to the State Department of Education for that amount of his
586 salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the state while the

587 teacher was on sabbatical, less twenty percent (20%) of the amount
588 of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the state for each
589 year that the person was employed as an administrator following
590 completion of the administrator licensure requirements. In
591 addition, the person shall become liable to the local school
592 district for any portion of his salary and paid fringe benefits
593 paid by the local school district while the teacher was on
594 sabbatical that is attributable to the local salary supplement or
595 is attributable to the amount that exceeds the maximum amount
596 allowed for reimbursement from state funds as provided in
597 subsection (2) of this section, less twenty percent (20%) of the
598 amount of his salary and paid fringe benefits paid by the school
599 district for each year that the person was employed as an
600 administrator following completion of the administrator licensure
601 requirements. Interest on the amount due shall accrue at the
602 current Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs. If the
603 claim for repayment of such salary and fringe benefits is placed
604 in the hands of an attorney for collection after default, then the
605 obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a
606 reasonable attorney's fee.

607 (5) If there is not an administrator position immediately
608 available in the sponsoring school district after a person has
609 completed the administrator licensure requirements, or if the
610 administrator position in the sponsoring school district in which
611 the person is employed is no longer needed before the completion
612 of the five-year employment commitment, the local school board
613 shall defer any part of the employment commitment that has not
614 been met until such time as an administrator position becomes
615 available in the sponsoring school district. If such a deferral
616 is made, the sponsoring school district shall employ the person as
617 a teacher in the school district during the period of deferral,
618 unless the person desires to be released from employment by the
619 sponsoring school district and the district agrees to release the

620 person from employment. If the sponsoring school district
621 releases a person from employment, that person may be employed as
622 an administrator in another school district in the state that is
623 in need of administrators as determined by the State Board of
624 Education, and that employment for the other school district shall
625 be applied to any remaining portion of the five-year employment
626 commitment required under this section. Nothing in this
627 subsection shall prevent a school district from not renewing the
628 person's contract before the end of the five-year employment
629 commitment in accordance with the School Employment Procedures Law
630 (Section 37-9-101 et seq.). However, if the person is not
631 employed as an administrator by another school district after
632 being released by the sponsoring school district, or after his
633 contract was not renewed by the sponsoring school district, he
634 shall be liable for repayment of the amount of his salary and
635 fringe benefits as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

636 (6) All funds received by the State Department of Education
637 from the repayment of salary and fringe benefits paid by the state
638 from program participants shall be deposited in the Mississippi
639 Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

640 * * *

641 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-11-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
642 amended as follows:

643 37-11-54. The State Board of Education, using only existing
644 staff and resources, shall develop a list of recommended conflict
645 resolution and mediation materials, models and curricula that
646 address responsible decision making, the causes and effects of
647 school violence and harassment, cultural diversity, and nonviolent
648 methods for resolving conflict, including peer mediation, and
649 shall make the list available to local school administrative units
650 and school buildings before the beginning of the 2002-2003 school
651 year. However, no monies from the Temporary Assistance for Needy
652 Families grant may be used for developing this list. In

653 developing this list, the board shall emphasize materials, models
654 and curricula that currently are being used in Mississippi and
655 which the board determines to be effective. The board shall
656 include at least one (1) model that includes instruction and
657 guidance for the voluntary implementation of peer mediation
658 programs and one (1) model that provides instruction and guidance
659 for teachers concerning the integration of conflict resolution and
660 mediation lessons into the existing classroom curriculum.

661 * * *

662 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-11-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
663 amended as follows:

664 37-11-61. (1) Local school boards shall ensure that all
665 public schools and agricultural high schools provide parents and
666 guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the
667 effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease. Such
668 information may be provided through the school district Web site,
669 student handbook or other appropriate means of dissemination of
670 information. Such information shall be updated annually if new
671 information on such disease is available. This information shall
672 include the causes, symptoms and means by which meningococcal
673 disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may
674 obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children.
675 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local
676 school board or school to provide or purchase vaccine against
677 meningococcal disease.

678 (2) The State Board of Health shall develop and make
679 available educational materials appropriate for distribution so
680 that the information required by this section can be provided to
681 parents and guardians. The Department of Health may provide this
682 information, at its discretion, electronically, on its Web site.
683 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
684 Department of Health to provide or purchase vaccine against
685 meningococcal disease.

686 * * *

687 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-15-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
688 amended as follows:

689 37-15-1. The State Board of Education shall prepare and
690 provide necessary forms for keeping permanent records and
691 cumulative folders for each pupil in the public schools of the
692 state. In the permanent record and cumulative folders, the
693 teachers and principals shall keep information concerning the
694 pupil's date of birth, as verified by the documentation authorized
695 in this section, record of attendance, grades and withdrawal from
696 the school, including the date of any expulsion from the school
697 system and a description of the student's act or behavior
698 resulting in the expulsion. The records also shall contain
699 information pertaining to immunization and such other information
700 as the State Board of Education may prescribe. The cumulative
701 folder, in addition to that information maintained in the
702 permanent records, also shall contain such other information as
703 the State Board of Education shall prescribe. It shall be the
704 responsibility of the person in charge of each school to enforce
705 the requirement for evidence of the age of each pupil before
706 enrollment. If the first prescribed evidence is not available,
707 the next evidence obtainable in the order set forth below shall be
708 accepted:

709 (a) A certified birth certificate;

710 (b) A duly attested transcript of a certificate of
711 baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the
712 child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by a parent,
713 grandparent or custodian;

714 (c) An insurance policy on the child's life which has
715 been in force for at least two (2) years;

716 (d) A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the
717 child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent,
718 grandparent or custodian;

719 (e) A passport or certificate of arrival in the United
720 States showing the age of the child;

721 (f) A transcript of record of age shown in the child's
722 school record of at least four (4) years prior to application,
723 stating date of birth; or

724 (g) If none of these evidences can be produced, an
725 affidavit of age sworn to by a parent, grandparent or custodian.
726 Any child enrolling in Kindergarten or Grade 1 shall present the
727 required evidence of age upon enrollment. Any child in Grades 2
728 through 12 not in compliance at the end of sixty (60) days from
729 enrollment shall be suspended until in compliance.

730 * * *

731 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
732 and after June 30, 2007.