

By: Senator(s) Longwitz

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2646

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUALITY COMMON CORE  
3 CURRICULUM IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PASS  
4 THE ACT TEST WITH A SATISFACTORY SCORE DETERMINED BY THE STATE  
5 BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ORDER TO EARN A STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA  
6 FROM A PUBLIC SCHOOL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish  
11 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a  
12 minimum:

13 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by  
14 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of  
15 Education \* \* \*; and

16 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,  
17 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district  
18 school board \* \* \*; and

19 (c) Following implementation of the Quality Common Core  
20 Curriculum, students who enter Grade 9 in the 2014-2015 school



21 year or in school years thereafter shall be required to pass the  
22 ACT Test with a satisfactory score as determined by the State  
23 Board of Education.

24 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in  
25 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma  
26 in a form prescribed by the state board. Students who meet these  
27 requirements but do not pass the required ACT Test will receive a  
28 Certificate of Completion which is not equivalent to a standard  
29 high school diploma.

30 (3) The State Board of Education may establish student  
31 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to  
32 graduation.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
34 and after July 1, 2013.

