

By: Senator(s) Jordan

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2346

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-5-1 AND 37-7-201, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO HAVE AT  
3 LEAST TWO YEARS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AS A QUALIFICATION FOR  
4 OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-5-1. (1) There is hereby established a county board of  
9 education in each county of the State of Mississippi. Said county  
10 board of education shall consist of five (5) members, one (1) of  
11 which, subject to the further provisions of this chapter and  
12 except as is otherwise provided in Section 37-5-1(2), shall be  
13 elected by the qualified electors of each board of education  
14 district of the county. Except as is otherwise provided in  
15 Section 37-5-3, each member so elected shall be a resident and  
16 qualified elector of the district from which he is elected. Each  
17 member of a county board of education elected to a term of office  
18 beginning on or after January 1, 2016, shall be required to have



19 at least two (2) years of postsecondary education from an  
20 accredited college or university.

21 (2) The county board of education shall apportion the county  
22 school district into five (5) single member board of education  
23 districts. The county board of education shall place upon its  
24 minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5) board of  
25 education districts. The board of education of said county shall  
26 thereafter publish the same in some newspaper of general  
27 circulation within said county for at least three (3) consecutive  
28 weeks and after having given notice of publication and recording  
29 the same upon the minutes of the board of education of said  
30 county, said new district lines will thereafter be effective. The  
31 board of education of said county shall reapportion the board of  
32 education districts in accordance with the procedure described  
33 herein for the original apportionment of districts as soon as  
34 practicable after the results of the 2000 decennial census are  
35 published and as soon as practicable after every decennial census  
36 thereafter.

37 (3) In counties where the office of "administrative  
38 superintendent" as defined in Section 37-6-3, Mississippi Code of  
39 1972, has been abolished, there shall be no county board of  
40 education.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-7-201, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
42 amended as follows:



43 37-7-201. In order for a person to be eligible to hold the  
44 office of trustee of any school district, such person must be a  
45 bona fide resident and a qualified elector of such school  
46 district, and, in the case of a school district lying in two (2)  
47 or more counties, but not including municipal separate school  
48 districts, such person must be a bona fide resident and a  
49 qualified elector of the territory entitled to such representation  
50 on the board. Any member of a local school board appointed or  
51 elected to office for a term of office beginning on or after  
52 January 1, 2015, shall have at least two (2) years of  
53 postsecondary education from an accredited college or university.

54 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
55 and after July 1, 2014.

