

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2398

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF
3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-9-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-9-13. (1) Each school district shall have a
8 superintendent of schools, selected in the manner provided by law.
9 No person shall be eligible to the office of superintendent of
10 schools unless such person shall hold a valid administrator's
11 license issued by the State Department of Education and shall
12 have * * * ~~had not less than four (4) years of classroom or~~
13 administrative experience of not less than six (6) years which
14 shall include at least three (3) years of administrative
15 experience as a school building principal (a) in a school with an
16 "A" or "B" accountability rating, or (b) in a school that
17 increased its accountability rating by a letter grade during the
18 period in which the principal was employed as principal at the



19 school, or (c) in a school with comparable accountability rating
20 or improvement in another state which shall be verified by the
21 Mississippi Department of Education.

22 (2) From and after January 1, 2019, in all public school
23 districts, the local school board shall appoint the superintendent
24 of schools of such district. At the expiration of the term of any
25 county superintendent of education elected at the November 2015
26 general election, the county superintendent of education of said
27 county shall not be elected but shall thereafter be appointed by
28 the local school board in the manner provided in Section 37-9-25.
29 However, in the event that a vacancy in the office of the
30 superintendent of schools elected at the November 2015 general
31 election shall occur before January 1, 2019, the office of
32 superintendent of schools shall immediately become an appointed
33 position, and the local school board shall appoint the
34 superintendent of the school district. The superintendent of
35 schools shall have the general powers and duties to administer the
36 schools within his district as prescribed in Section 37-9-14 et
37 seq., Mississippi Code of 1972.

38 (3) As an alternative to the qualifications prescribed in
39 subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education is
40 authorized and directed to issue regulations by January 1, 2018,
41 which include minimum credentials, educational prerequisites, and
42 relevant best practice experience requirements that will qualify a
43 person to serve as a superintendent without having the direct



44 experience or certification as an educator specified in subsection
45 (1) of this section.

46 (4) The provisions of this section shall be applicable to
47 any superintendent of schools selected on or after July 1, 2017,
48 who has not previously served as a superintendent or assistant
49 superintendent within the last five (5) years.

50 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2017.

