

By: Senator(s) Jordan

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2037

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 ONE YEAR 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, 2018, shall be required to have



19 at least one (1) year (thirty-two (32) credit hours) of
20 postsecondary education from an 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, 2018, shall have at least one (1) year (thirty-two (32)
53 credit hours) of postsecondary education from an accredited
54 college or university.

55 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2017.

