

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 \* \* \* classroom or administrative experience of not less than  
13 six (6) years which shall include at least three (3) years of  
14 administrative experience as a school building principal (a) in a  
15 school with an "A" or "B" accountability rating, or (b) in a  
16 school that increased its accountability rating by a letter grade  
17 during the period in which the principal was employed as principal  
18 at the school, or (c) in a school with comparable accountability



19 rating or improvement in another state which shall be verified by  
20 the Mississippi Department of Education.

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

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



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

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

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

