

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.

