

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 502

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ASSESS THE STUDENT PERFORMANCE OF
 3 ALL ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS USING THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL
 4 DEVELOPMENT OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST PROGRAM; TO PROHIBIT
 5 STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE ASSESSMENT TO BE PERFORMING BELOW GRADE
 6 LEVEL FROM EXERCISING ANY SENIOR PRIVILEGE OF EARLY RELEASE FROM
 7 SCHOOL UPON COMPLETION OF ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES REQUIRED FOR THE
 8 DAY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 11 amended as follows:

12 37-16-5. (1) The school board of every district in this
 13 state shall periodically assess student performance and
 14 achievement in each school. Such assessment programs shall be
 15 based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with
 16 the state's plan for education and which supplement the minimum
 17 performance standards approved by the State Board of Education.
 18 Data from district assessment programs shall be provided to the
 19 State Department of Education when such data is required in order
 20 to evaluate specific instructional programs or processes or when
 21 the data is needed for other research or evaluation projects.



22 Each district may provide acceptable, compatible district
23 assessment data to substitute for any assessment data needed at
24 the state level when the State Department of Education certifies
25 that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Section 37-16-3.

26 (2) The school board of every school district shall assess
27 the performance of each student in Grade 11 through the
28 administration of the general educational development or High
29 School Equivalency Diploma Test Program as used by the Mississippi
30 Community College Board for adult basic education. The assessment
31 must be administered before the conclusion of the year in which a
32 student is enrolled in Grade 11. Any student whose performance on
33 the assessment demonstrates that the student is performing below
34 grade level may not exercise any privilege that may be granted by
35 the school district to seniors in that district for early release
36 during regular school hours upon completion of all academic
37 classes required for the day.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2018.

