

By: Representatives Paden, Dortch, Hines,  
Johnson (94th), Straughter, Walker

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1031

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
2 LICENSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AN  
3 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSURE ROUTE FOR QUALIFIED PERSONS TO TEACH  
4 IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION; TO  
5 SPECIFY THOSE COUNTIES CONSIDERED PART OF THE DELTA REGION; TO  
6 AUTHORIZE A TEACHER LICENSED THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM TO  
7 PARTICIPATE IN OTHER TEACHER RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THE  
8 INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIES; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
9 1972, TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE  
10 AND TO AUTHORIZE ITS ISSUANCE BEGINNING JULY 1, 2018; TO PRESCRIBE  
11 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA ALTERNATIVE TEACHER  
12 LICENSE AND TO LIMIT ITS USAGE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS LOCATED IN THE  
13 MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION WHICH SUBMIT A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE  
14 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL TO EMPLOY PERSONS SO  
15 LICENSED; TO REQUIRE EACH AFFECTED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A  
16 MINIMUM OF FIFTY ADDITIONAL HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO  
17 HOLDERS OF THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE DURING THE FIRST THREE  
18 YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO REQUIRE THE  
19 AFFECTED SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ASSIGN A VETERAN ON-SITE MENTOR  
20 TEACHER TO THE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER LICENSE HOLDER DURING THE FIRST  
21 TWO YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 37-159-1,  
22 37-159-5 THROUGH 37-159-13 AND 37-159-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
23 1972, WHICH ARE THE "MISSISSIPPI CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE ACT OF  
24 1998," FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED  
25 PURPOSES.

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

27 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Delta  
28 Alternative Teacher Licensure Pilot Program within the State  
29 Department of Education for the purpose of establishing and



30 implementing an alternative route to teacher licensure for  
31 qualified persons employed in school districts located in the  
32 Mississippi Delta Region. In creating the pilot program, it is  
33 the goal of the Legislature to help alleviate the critical  
34 shortage of licensed teachers in the region of the state most  
35 seriously affected. The purpose of the pilot program is to  
36 attract individuals, particularly those who are already residents  
37 of the Mississippi Delta Region, to the field of education by  
38 creating an alternative to traditional teacher licensure routes  
39 which emphasizes professional development and mentoring as a means  
40 to strengthen the skills of teachers licensed through the  
41 alternative route. In establishing the pilot program, the  
42 department shall bring together representatives of the Commission  
43 on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and  
44 Licensure and Development, the University Assisted Teacher  
45 Recruitment and Retention Program, the Mississippi Teacher Center,  
46 the teacher education programs at Delta State University and  
47 Mississippi Valley State University and administrators employed by  
48 school districts located in the Mississippi Delta Region to  
49 collaborate on the promotion and implementation of the program in  
50 order to achieve maximum utilization of the alternative teacher  
51 licensure route by qualified individuals.

52 (2) For purposes of the pilot program established under this  
53 section, the Mississippi Delta Region is comprised of the  
54 following counties in the State of Mississippi: Bolivar, Carroll,



55 Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman,  
56 Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington and  
57 Yazoo.

58 (3) A teacher licensed through the Mississippi Delta  
59 Alternative Teacher Licensure Pilot Program may participate in any  
60 other teacher recruitment and retention program or programs for  
61 which the individual qualifies, including, but not limited to, the  
62 William F. Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program, the Mississippi  
63 Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Shortage Program and other  
64 programs available under the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage  
65 Act of 1998.

66 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-3-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
67 amended as follows:

68 37-3-2. (1) There is established within the State  
69 Department of Education the Commission on Teacher and  
70 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and  
71 Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the commission  
72 to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding  
73 standards for the certification and licensure and continuing  
74 professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an  
75 educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.

76 (2) The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15)  
77 qualified members. The membership of the commission shall be  
78 composed of the following members to be appointed, three (3) from  
79 each congressional district: four (4) classroom teachers; three



80 (3) school administrators; one (1) representative of schools of  
81 education of institutions of higher learning located within the  
82 state to be recommended by the Board of Trustees of State  
83 Institutions of Higher Learning; one (1) representative from the  
84 schools of education of independent institutions of higher  
85 learning to be recommended by the Board of the Mississippi  
86 Association of Independent Colleges; one (1) representative from  
87 public community and junior colleges located within the state to  
88 be recommended by the Mississippi Community College Board; one (1)  
89 local school board member; and four (4) laypersons. All  
90 appointments shall be made by the State Board of Education after  
91 consultation with the State Superintendent of Public Education.  
92 The first appointments by the State Board of Education shall be  
93 made as follows: five (5) members shall be appointed for a term  
94 of one (1) year; five (5) members shall be appointed for a term of  
95 two (2) years; and five (5) members shall be appointed for a term  
96 of three (3) years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed  
97 for a term of four (4) years.

98 (3) The State Board of Education when making appointments  
99 shall designate a chairman. The commission shall meet at least  
100 once every two (2) months or more often if needed. Members of the  
101 commission shall be compensated at a rate of per diem as  
102 authorized by Section 25-3-69 and be reimbursed for actual and  
103 necessary expenses as authorized by Section 25-3-41.



104           (4)   (a)   An appropriate staff member of the State Department  
105 of Education shall be designated and assigned by the State  
106 Superintendent of Public Education to serve as executive secretary  
107 and coordinator for the commission. No less than two (2) other  
108 appropriate staff members of the State Department of Education  
109 shall be designated and assigned by the State Superintendent of  
110 Public Education to serve on the staff of the commission.

111                   (b)   An Office of Educator Misconduct Evaluations shall  
112 be established within the State Department of Education to assist  
113 the commission in responding to infractions and violations, and in  
114 conducting hearings and enforcing the provisions of subsections  
115 (11), (12), (13), (14) and (15) of this section, and violations of  
116 the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics.

117           (5)   It shall be the duty of the commission to:

118                   (a)   Set standards and criteria, subject to the approval  
119 of the State Board of Education, for all educator preparation  
120 programs in the state;

121                   (b)   Recommend to the State Board of Education each year  
122 approval or disapproval of each educator preparation program in  
123 the state, subject to a process and schedule determined by the  
124 State Board of Education;

125                   (c)   Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
126 Board of Education, standards for initial teacher certification  
127 and licensure in all fields;



128 (d) Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
129 Board of Education, standards for the renewal of teacher licenses  
130 in all fields;

131 (e) Review and evaluate objective measures of teacher  
132 performance, such as test scores, which may form part of the  
133 licensure process, and to make recommendations for their use;

134 (f) Review all existing requirements for certification  
135 and licensure;

136 (g) Consult with groups whose work may be affected by  
137 the commission's decisions;

138 (h) Prepare reports from time to time on current  
139 practices and issues in the general area of teacher education and  
140 certification and licensure;

141 (i) Hold hearings concerning standards for teachers'  
142 and administrators' education and certification and licensure with  
143 approval of the State Board of Education;

144 (j) Hire expert consultants with approval of the State  
145 Board of Education;

146 (k) Set up ad hoc committees to advise on specific  
147 areas; and

148 (l) Perform such other functions as may fall within  
149 their general charge and which may be delegated to them by the  
150 State Board of Education.

151 (6) (a) **Standard License - Approved Program Route.** An  
152 educator entering the school system of Mississippi for the first



153 time and meeting all requirements as established by the State  
154 Board of Education shall be granted a standard five-year license.  
155 Persons who possess two (2) years of classroom experience as an  
156 assistant teacher or who have taught for one (1) year in an  
157 accredited public or private school shall be allowed to fulfill  
158 student teaching requirements under the supervision of a qualified  
159 participating teacher approved by an accredited college of  
160 education. The local school district in which the assistant  
161 teacher is employed shall compensate such assistant teachers at  
162 the required salary level during the period of time such  
163 individual is completing student teaching requirements.

164 Applicants for a standard license shall submit to the department:

- 165 (i) An application on a department form;
- 166 (ii) An official transcript of completion of a  
167 teacher education program approved by the department or a  
168 nationally accredited program, subject to the following:  
169 Licensure to teach in Mississippi prekindergarten through  
170 kindergarten classrooms shall require completion of a teacher  
171 education program or a Bachelor of Science degree with child  
172 development emphasis from a program accredited by the American  
173 Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) or by the  
174 National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or by  
175 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
176 (NCATE). Licensure to teach in Mississippi kindergarten, for  
177 those applicants who have completed a teacher education program,



178 and in Grade 1 through Grade 4 shall require the completion of an  
179 interdisciplinary program of studies. Licenses for Grades 4  
180 through 8 shall require the completion of an interdisciplinary  
181 program of studies with two (2) or more areas of concentration.  
182 Licensure to teach in Mississippi Grades 7 through 12 shall  
183 require a major in an academic field other than education, or a  
184 combination of disciplines other than education. Students  
185 preparing to teach a subject shall complete a major in the  
186 respective subject discipline. All applicants for standard  
187 licensure shall demonstrate that such person's college preparation  
188 in those fields was in accordance with the standards set forth by  
189 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education  
190 (NCATE) or the National Association of State Directors of Teacher  
191 Education and Certification (NASDTEC) or, for those applicants who  
192 have a Bachelor of Science degree with child development emphasis,  
193 the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS).  
194 Effective July 1, 2016, for initial elementary education  
195 licensure, a teacher candidate must earn a passing score on a  
196 rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction  
197 and intervention and data-based decision-making principles as  
198 approved by the State Board of Education;

199 (iii) A copy of test scores evidencing  
200 satisfactory completion of nationally administered examinations of  
201 achievement, such as the Educational Testing Service's teacher  
202 testing examinations;





203 (iv) Any other document required by the State  
204 Board of Education; and

205 (v) From and after September 30, 2015, no teacher  
206 candidate shall be licensed to teach in Mississippi who did not  
207 meet the following criteria for entrance into an approved teacher  
208 education program:

209 1. Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent or achieve  
210 the nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis Core  
211 Academic Skills for Educators examination; and

212 2. No less than 2.75 GPA on pre-major  
213 coursework of the institution's approved teacher education program  
214 provided that the accepted cohort of candidates meets or exceeds a  
215 3.0 GPA on pre-major coursework.

216 (b) **Standard License - Nontraditional Teaching Route.**

217 From and after September 30, 2015, no teacher candidate shall be  
218 licensed to teach in Mississippi under the alternate route who did  
219 not meet the following criteria:

220 (i) Twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent or achieve the  
221 nationally recommended passing score on the Praxis Core Academic  
222 Skills for Educators examination; and

223 (ii) No less than 2.75 GPA on content coursework  
224 in the requested area of certification or passing Praxis II scores  
225 at or above the national recommended score provided that the  
226 accepted cohort of candidates of the institution's teacher



227 education program meets or exceeds a 3.0 GPA on pre-major  
228 coursework.

229         Beginning January 1, 2004, an individual who has a passing  
230 score on the Praxis I Basic Skills and Praxis II Specialty Area  
231 Test in the requested area of endorsement may apply for the Teach  
232 Mississippi Institute (TMI) program to teach students in Grades 7  
233 through 12 if the individual meets the requirements of this  
234 paragraph (b). The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
235 requiring that teacher preparation institutions which provide the  
236 Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) program for the preparation of  
237 nontraditional teachers shall meet the standards and comply with  
238 the provisions of this paragraph.

239                 (i) The Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) shall  
240 include an intensive eight-week, nine-semester-hour summer program  
241 or a curriculum of study in which the student matriculates in the  
242 fall or spring semester, which shall include, but not be limited  
243 to, instruction in education, effective teaching strategies,  
244 classroom management, state curriculum requirements, planning and  
245 instruction, instructional methods and pedagogy, using test  
246 results to improve instruction, and a one (1) semester three-hour  
247 supervised internship to be completed while the teacher is  
248 employed as a full-time teacher intern in a local school district.  
249 The TMI shall be implemented on a pilot program basis, with  
250 courses to be offered at up to four (4) locations in the state,



251 with one (1) TMI site to be located in each of the three (3)  
252 Mississippi Supreme Court districts.

253 (ii) The school sponsoring the teacher intern  
254 shall enter into a written agreement with the institution  
255 providing the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) program, under  
256 terms and conditions as agreed upon by the contracting parties,  
257 providing that the school district shall provide teacher interns  
258 seeking a nontraditional provisional teaching license with a  
259 one-year classroom teaching experience. The teacher intern shall  
260 successfully complete the one (1) semester three-hour intensive  
261 internship in the school district during the semester immediately  
262 following successful completion of the TMI and prior to the end of  
263 the one-year classroom teaching experience.

264 (iii) Upon completion of the nine-semester-hour  
265 TMI or the fall or spring semester option, the individual shall  
266 submit his transcript to the commission for provisional licensure  
267 of the intern teacher, and the intern teacher shall be issued a  
268 provisional teaching license by the commission, which will allow  
269 the individual to legally serve as a teacher while the person  
270 completes a nontraditional teacher preparation internship program.

271 (iv) During the semester of internship in the  
272 school district, the teacher preparation institution shall monitor  
273 the performance of the intern teacher. The school district that  
274 employs the provisional teacher shall supervise the provisional  
275 teacher during the teacher's intern year of employment under a



276 nontraditional provisional license, and shall, in consultation  
277 with the teacher intern's mentor at the school district of  
278 employment, submit to the commission a comprehensive evaluation of  
279 the teacher's performance sixty (60) days prior to the expiration  
280 of the nontraditional provisional license. If the comprehensive  
281 evaluation establishes that the provisional teacher intern's  
282 performance fails to meet the standards of the approved  
283 nontraditional teacher preparation internship program, the  
284 individual shall not be approved for a standard license.

285                   (v) An individual issued a provisional teaching  
286 license under this nontraditional route shall successfully  
287 complete, at a minimum, a one-year beginning teacher mentoring and  
288 induction program administered by the employing school district  
289 with the assistance of the State Department of Education.

290                   (vi) Upon successful completion of the TMI and the  
291 internship provisional license period, applicants for a Standard  
292 License - Nontraditional Route shall submit to the commission a  
293 transcript of successful completion of the twelve (12) semester  
294 hours required in the internship program, and the employing school  
295 district shall submit to the commission a recommendation for  
296 standard licensure of the intern. If the school district  
297 recommends licensure, the applicant shall be issued a Standard  
298 License - Nontraditional Route which shall be valid for a  
299 five-year period and be renewable.



300 (vii) At the discretion of the teacher preparation  
301 institution, the individual shall be allowed to credit the twelve  
302 (12) semester hours earned in the nontraditional teacher  
303 internship program toward the graduate hours required for a Master  
304 of Arts in Teacher (MAT) Degree.

305 (viii) The local school district in which the  
306 nontraditional teacher intern or provisional licensee is employed  
307 shall compensate such teacher interns at Step 1 of the required  
308 salary level during the period of time such individual is  
309 completing teacher internship requirements and shall compensate  
310 such Standard License - Nontraditional Route teachers at Step 3 of  
311 the required salary level when they complete license requirements.

312 Implementation of the TMI program provided for under this  
313 paragraph (b) shall be contingent upon the availability of funds  
314 appropriated specifically for such purpose by the Legislature.  
315 Such implementation of the TMI program may not be deemed to  
316 prohibit the State Board of Education from developing and  
317 implementing additional alternative route teacher licensure  
318 programs, as deemed appropriate by the board. The emergency  
319 certification program in effect prior to July 1, 2002, shall  
320 remain in effect.

321 A Standard License - Approved Program Route shall be issued  
322 for a five-year period, and may be renewed. Recognizing teaching  
323 as a profession, a hiring preference shall be granted to persons  
324 holding a Standard License - Approved Program Route or Standard



325 License - Nontraditional Teaching Route over persons holding any  
326 other license.

327           (c) **Special License - Expert Citizen.** In order to  
328 allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses,  
329 the State Department of Education, in accordance with rules and  
330 regulations established by the State Board of Education, may grant  
331 a one-year expert citizen-teacher license to local business or  
332 other professional personnel to teach in a public school or  
333 nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state. Such person  
334 may begin teaching upon his employment by the local school board  
335 and licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education. The  
336 board shall adopt rules and regulations to administer the expert  
337 citizen-teacher license. A Special License - Expert Citizen may  
338 be renewed in accordance with the established rules and  
339 regulations of the State Department of Education.

340           (d) **Special License - Nonrenewable.** The State Board of  
341 Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations to  
342 allow those educators not meeting requirements in paragraph (a),  
343 (b) or (c) of this subsection (6) to be licensed for a period of  
344 not more than three (3) years, except by special approval of the  
345 State Board of Education.

346           (e) **Nonlicensed Teaching Personnel.** A nonlicensed  
347 person may teach for a maximum of three (3) periods per teaching  
348 day in a public school district or a nonpublic school  
349 accredited/approved by the state. Such person shall submit to the



350 department a transcript or record of his education and experience  
351 which substantiates his preparation for the subject to be taught  
352 and shall meet other qualifications specified by the commission  
353 and approved by the State Board of Education. In no case shall  
354 any local school board hire nonlicensed personnel as authorized  
355 under this paragraph in excess of five percent (5%) of the total  
356 number of licensed personnel in any single school.

357 (f) **Special License - Transitional Bilingual Education.**  
358 Beginning July 1, 2003, the commission shall grant special  
359 licenses to teachers of transitional bilingual education who  
360 possess such qualifications as are prescribed in this section.  
361 Teachers of transitional bilingual education shall be compensated  
362 by local school boards at not less than one (1) step on the  
363 regular salary schedule applicable to permanent teachers licensed  
364 under this section. The commission shall grant special licenses  
365 to teachers of transitional bilingual education who present the  
366 commission with satisfactory evidence that they (i) possess a  
367 speaking and reading ability in a language, other than English, in  
368 which bilingual education is offered and communicative skills in  
369 English; (ii) are in good health and sound moral character; (iii)  
370 possess a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree in teacher  
371 education from an accredited institution of higher education; (iv)  
372 meet such requirements as to courses of study, semester hours  
373 therein, experience and training as may be required by the  
374 commission; and (v) are legally present in the United States and



375 possess legal authorization for employment. A teacher of  
376 transitional bilingual education serving under a special license  
377 shall be under an exemption from standard licensure if he achieves  
378 the requisite qualifications therefor. Two (2) years of service  
379 by a teacher of transitional bilingual education under such an  
380 exemption shall be credited to the teacher in acquiring a Standard  
381 Educator License. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to  
382 prohibit a local school board from employing a teacher licensed in  
383 an appropriate field as approved by the State Department of  
384 Education to teach in a program in transitional bilingual  
385 education.

386 (g) In the event any school district meets the highest  
387 accreditation standards as defined by the State Board of Education  
388 in the accountability system, the State Board of Education, in its  
389 discretion, may exempt such school district from any restrictions  
390 in paragraph (e) relating to the employment of nonlicensed  
391 teaching personnel.

392 (h) **Highly Qualified Teachers.** Beginning July 1, 2006,  
393 any teacher from any state meeting the federal definition of  
394 highly qualified, as described in the No Child Left Behind Act,  
395 must be granted a standard five-year license by the State  
396 Department of Education.

397 (i) **Mississippi Delta Alternative Teacher License.**  
398 Beginning July 1, 2018, the commission shall grant Mississippi





399 Delta alternative teacher licenses to educators who successfully  
400 meet one (1) of the following qualifications:

401 (i) Earned a twenty-one (21) ACT equivalent and  
402 achieved the nationally recommended score on the Praxis Core  
403 Academic Skills for Educators examination, or earned an eighteen  
404 (18) ACT equivalent while maintaining no less than a 2.75 GPA on  
405 content coursework in the area of certification, which serves as  
406 an alternate to a passing Praxis Core examination score; or

407 (ii) Achieved the nationally recommended passing  
408 score on all but one (1) developmental area of the Praxis Core and  
409 Praxis II examinations; or

410 (iii) Submission and approval by the commission of  
411 a portfolio and video based on the Teacher Growth Rubric, which  
412 serves as an alternative to achieving the nationally recommended  
413 passing score on the Praxis II examination.

414 The Mississippi Delta alternative teacher license may be used  
415 only in a school district located in the Mississippi Delta Region,  
416 as described under Section 1 of this act, which makes a formal  
417 written request to the State Department of Education for approval  
418 of the employment of teachers holding the alternative license at  
419 the conclusion of each academic term. As a condition of being  
420 approved, the school district must agree to provide holders of the  
421 Mississippi Delta alternative teacher license with no less than  
422 fifty (50) hours of professional development in addition to the  
423 professional development requirements for educators holding a



424 standard license, which additional hours must be completed during  
425 a license holder's first three (3) years of employment with the  
426 school district. The school district shall assign a veteran  
427 on-site mentor teacher to the Mississippi Delta alternative  
428 teacher license holder, who must be compensated for mentoring  
429 services in the manner provided under Section 37-9-211.

430 A Mississippi Delta alternative teacher license issued under  
431 this paragraph is valid for such period of time as may be  
432 established by the State Board of Education and may be renewed in  
433 accordance with rules and regulations established by the State  
434 Board of Education.

435 (7) **Administrator License.** The State Board of Education is  
436 authorized to establish rules and regulations and to administer  
437 the licensure process of the school administrators in the State of  
438 Mississippi. There will be four (4) categories of administrator  
439 licensure with exceptions only through special approval of the  
440 State Board of Education.

441 (a) **Administrator License - Nonpracticing.** Those  
442 educators holding administrative endorsement but having no  
443 administrative experience or not serving in an administrative  
444 position on January 15, 1997.

445 (b) **Administrator License - Entry Level.** Those  
446 educators holding administrative endorsement and having met the  
447 department's qualifications to be eligible for employment in a



448 Mississippi school district. Administrator License - Entry Level  
449 shall be issued for a five-year period and shall be nonrenewable.

450 (c) **Standard Administrator License - Career Level.** An  
451 administrator who has met all the requirements of the department  
452 for standard administrator licensure.

453 (d) **Administrator License - Nontraditional Route.** The  
454 board may establish a nontraditional route for licensing  
455 administrative personnel. Such nontraditional route for  
456 administrative licensure shall be available for persons holding,  
457 but not limited to, a master of business administration degree, a  
458 master of public administration degree, a master of public  
459 planning and policy degree or a doctor of jurisprudence degree  
460 from an accredited college or university, with five (5) years of  
461 administrative or supervisory experience. Successful completion  
462 of the requirements of alternate route licensure for  
463 administrators shall qualify the person for a standard  
464 administrator license.

465 Individuals seeking school administrator licensure under  
466 paragraph (b), (c) or (d) shall successfully complete a training  
467 program and an assessment process prescribed by the State Board of  
468 Education. All applicants for school administrator licensure  
469 shall meet all requirements prescribed by the department under  
470 paragraph (b), (c) or (d), and the cost of the assessment process  
471 required shall be paid by the applicant.



472           (8) **Reciprocity.** (a) The department shall grant a standard  
473 license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license  
474 from another state and meets minimum Mississippi license  
475 requirements or equivalent requirements as determined by the State  
476 Board of Education. The issuance of a license by reciprocity to a  
477 military-trained applicant or military spouse shall be subject to  
478 the provisions of Section 73-50-1.

479           (b) The department shall grant a nonrenewable special  
480 license to any individual who possesses a credential which is less  
481 than a standard license or certification from another state. Such  
482 special license shall be valid for the current school year plus  
483 one (1) additional school year to expire on June 30 of the second  
484 year, not to exceed a total period of twenty-four (24) months,  
485 during which time the applicant shall be required to complete the  
486 requirements for a standard license in Mississippi.

487           (9) **Renewal and Reinstatement of Licenses.** The State Board  
488 of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for  
489 the renewal and reinstatement of educator and administrator  
490 licenses. Effective May 15, 1997, the valid standard license held  
491 by an educator shall be extended five (5) years beyond the  
492 expiration date of the license in order to afford the educator  
493 adequate time to fulfill new renewal requirements established  
494 pursuant to this subsection. An educator completing a master of  
495 education, educational specialist or doctor of education degree in  
496 May 1997 for the purpose of upgrading the educator's license to a



497 higher class shall be given this extension of five (5) years plus  
498 five (5) additional years for completion of a higher degree.

499 (10) All controversies involving the issuance, revocation,  
500 suspension or any change whatsoever in the licensure of an  
501 educator required to hold a license shall be initially heard in a  
502 hearing de novo, by the commission or by a subcommittee  
503 established by the commission and composed of commission members  
504 for the purpose of holding hearings. Any complaint seeking the  
505 denial of issuance, revocation or suspension of a license shall be  
506 by sworn affidavit filed with the Commission on Teacher and  
507 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and  
508 Development. The decision thereon by the commission or its  
509 subcommittee shall be final, unless the aggrieved party shall  
510 appeal to the State Board of Education, within ten (10) days, of  
511 the decision of the committee or its subcommittee. An appeal to  
512 the State Board of Education shall be on the record previously  
513 made before the commission or its subcommittee unless otherwise  
514 provided by rules and regulations adopted by the board. The State  
515 Board of Education in its authority may reverse, or remand with  
516 instructions, the decision of the committee or its subcommittee.  
517 The decision of the State Board of Education shall be final.

518 (11) The State Board of Education, acting through the  
519 commission, may deny an application for any teacher or  
520 administrator license for one or more of the following:



521 (a) Lack of qualifications which are prescribed by law  
522 or regulations adopted by the State Board of Education;

523 (b) The applicant has a physical, emotional or mental  
524 disability that renders the applicant unfit to perform the duties  
525 authorized by the license, as certified by a licensed psychologist  
526 or psychiatrist;

527 (c) The applicant is actively addicted to or actively  
528 dependent on alcohol or other habit-forming drugs or is a habitual  
529 user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens or  
530 other drugs having similar effect, at the time of application for  
531 a license;

532 (d) Revocation, suspension or surrender of an  
533 applicant's certificate or license by another state shall result  
534 in immediate denial of licensure until such time that the records  
535 predicated the revocation, suspension or surrender in the prior  
536 state have been cleared;

537 (e) Fraud or deceit committed by the applicant in  
538 securing or attempting to secure such certification and license;

539 (f) Failing or refusing to furnish reasonable evidence  
540 of identification;

541 (g) The applicant has been convicted, has pled guilty  
542 or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as defined by  
543 federal or state law;

544 (h) The applicant has been convicted, has pled guilty  
545 or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense as defined



546 by federal or state law. For purposes of this paragraph (h) and  
547 paragraph (g) of this subsection, a "guilty plea" includes a plea  
548 of guilty, entry of a plea of nolo contendere, or entry of an  
549 order granting pretrial or judicial diversion; or

550 (i) Probation or post-release supervision for a felony  
551 or sex offense conviction, as defined by federal or state law,  
552 shall result in the immediate denial of licensure application  
553 until expiration of the probationary or post-release supervision  
554 period.

555 (12) The State Board of Education, acting through the  
556 commission, may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any teacher or  
557 administrator license for specified periods of time or may place  
558 on probation, censure, reprimand a licensee, or take other  
559 disciplinary action with regard to any license issued under this  
560 chapter for one or more of the following:

561 (a) Breach of contract or abandonment of employment may  
562 result in the suspension of the license for one (1) school year as  
563 provided in Section 37-9-57;

564 (b) Obtaining a license by fraudulent means shall  
565 result in immediate suspension and continued suspension for one  
566 (1) year after correction is made;

567 (c) Suspension or revocation of a certificate or  
568 license by another state shall result in immediate suspension or  
569 revocation and shall continue until records in the prior state  
570 have been cleared;



571 (d) The license holder has been convicted, has pled  
572 guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as  
573 defined by federal or state law. For purposes of this paragraph,  
574 a "guilty plea" includes a plea of guilty, entry of a plea of nolo  
575 contendere, or entry of an order granting pretrial or judicial  
576 diversion;

577 (e) The license holder has been convicted, has pled  
578 guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense, as  
579 defined by federal or state law, shall result in immediate  
580 suspension or revocation;

581 (f) The license holder has received probation or  
582 post-release supervision for a felony or sex offense conviction,  
583 as defined by federal or state law, which shall result in  
584 immediate suspension or revocation until expiration of the  
585 probationary or post-release supervision period;

586 (g) The license holder knowingly and willfully  
587 committing any of the acts affecting validity of mandatory uniform  
588 test results as provided in Section 37-16-4(1);

589 (h) The license holder has engaged in unethical conduct  
590 relating to an educator/student relationship as identified by the  
591 State Board of Education in its rules;

592 (i) The license holder has fondled a student as  
593 described in Section 97-5-23, or had any type of sexual  
594 involvement with a student as described in Section 97-3-95;





595 (j) The license holder has failed to report sexual  
596 involvement of a school employee with a student as required by  
597 Section 97-5-24;

598 (k) The license holder served as superintendent or  
599 principal in a school district during the time preceding and/or  
600 that resulted in the Governor declaring a state of emergency and  
601 the State Board of Education appointing a conservator;

602 (l) The license holder submitted a false certification  
603 to the State Department of Education that a statewide test was  
604 administered in strict accordance with the Requirements of the  
605 Mississippi Statewide Assessment System; or

606 (m) The license holder has failed to comply with the  
607 Procedures for Reporting Infractions as promulgated by the  
608 commission and approved by the State Board of Education pursuant  
609 to subsection (15) of this section.

610 (13) (a) Dismissal or suspension of a licensed employee by  
611 a local school board pursuant to Section 37-9-59 may result in the  
612 suspension or revocation of a license for a length of time which  
613 shall be determined by the commission and based upon the severity  
614 of the offense.

615 (b) Any offense committed or attempted in any other  
616 state shall result in the same penalty as if committed or  
617 attempted in this state.

618 (c) A person may voluntarily surrender a license. The  
619 surrender of such license may result in the commission



620 recommending any of the above penalties without the necessity of a  
621 hearing. However, any such license which has voluntarily been  
622 surrendered by a licensed employee may only be reinstated by a  
623 majority vote of all members of the commission present at the  
624 meeting called for such purpose.

625 (14) (a) A person whose license has been revoked or  
626 surrendered on any grounds except criminal grounds may petition  
627 for reinstatement of the license after one (1) year from the date  
628 of revocation or surrender, or after one-half (1/2) of the revoked  
629 or surrendered time has lapsed, whichever is greater. A person  
630 whose license has been suspended on any grounds or violations  
631 under subsection (12) of this section may be reinstated  
632 automatically or approved for a reinstatement hearing, upon  
633 submission of a written request to the commission. A license  
634 suspended, revoked or surrendered on criminal grounds may be  
635 reinstated upon petition to the commission filed after expiration  
636 of the sentence and parole or probationary period imposed upon  
637 conviction. A revoked, suspended or surrendered license may be  
638 reinstated upon satisfactory showing of evidence of  
639 rehabilitation. The commission shall require all who petition for  
640 reinstatement to furnish evidence satisfactory to the commission  
641 of good character, good mental, emotional and physical health and  
642 such other evidence as the commission may deem necessary to  
643 establish the petitioner's rehabilitation and fitness to perform  
644 the duties authorized by the license.



645 (b) A person whose license expires while under  
646 investigation by the Office of Educator Misconduct for an alleged  
647 violation may not be reinstated without a hearing before the  
648 commission if required based on the results of the investigation.

649 (15) Reporting procedures and hearing procedures for dealing  
650 with infractions under this section shall be promulgated by the  
651 commission, subject to the approval of the State Board of  
652 Education. The revocation or suspension of a license shall be  
653 effected at the time indicated on the notice of suspension or  
654 revocation. The commission shall immediately notify the  
655 superintendent of the school district or school board where the  
656 teacher or administrator is employed of any disciplinary action  
657 and also notify the teacher or administrator of such revocation or  
658 suspension and shall maintain records of action taken. The State  
659 Board of Education may reverse or remand with instructions any  
660 decision of the commission regarding a petition for reinstatement  
661 of a license, and any such decision of the State Board of  
662 Education shall be final.

663 (16) An appeal from the action of the State Board of  
664 Education in denying an application, revoking or suspending a  
665 license or otherwise disciplining any person under the provisions  
666 of this section shall be filed in the Chancery Court of the First  
667 Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, on the record  
668 made, including a verbatim transcript of the testimony at the  
669 hearing. The appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days after



670 notification of the action of the board is mailed or served and  
671 the proceedings in chancery court shall be conducted as other  
672 matters coming before the court. The appeal shall be perfected  
673 upon filing notice of the appeal and by the prepayment of all  
674 costs, including the cost of preparation of the record of the  
675 proceedings by the State Board of Education, and the filing of a  
676 bond in the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) conditioned that  
677 if the action of the board be affirmed by the chancery court, the  
678 applicant or license holder shall pay the costs of the appeal and  
679 the action of the chancery court.

680 (17) All such programs, rules, regulations, standards and  
681 criteria recommended or authorized by the commission shall become  
682 effective upon approval by the State Board of Education as  
683 designated by appropriate orders entered upon the minutes thereof.

684 (18) The granting of a license shall not be deemed a  
685 property right nor a guarantee of employment in any public school  
686 district. A license is a privilege indicating minimal eligibility  
687 for teaching in the public school districts of Mississippi. This  
688 section shall in no way alter or abridge the authority of local  
689 school districts to require greater qualifications or standards of  
690 performance as a prerequisite of initial or continued employment  
691 in such districts.

692 (19) In addition to the reasons specified in subsections  
693 (12) and (13) of this section, the board shall be authorized to  
694 suspend the license of any licensee for being out of compliance



695 with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The  
696 procedure for suspension of a license for being out of compliance  
697 with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or  
698 reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, and the  
699 payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a  
700 license suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section  
701 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. Actions taken by the  
702 board in suspending a license when required by Section 93-11-157  
703 or 93-11-163 are not actions from which an appeal may be taken  
704 under this section. Any appeal of a license suspension that is  
705 required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 shall be taken in  
706 accordance with the appeal procedure specified in Section  
707 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than the  
708 procedure specified in this section. If there is any conflict  
709 between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any  
710 provision of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or  
711 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

712       **SECTION 3.** Section 37-159-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
713 brought forward as follows:

714       37-159-1. This act [Laws of 1998, Chapter 544] shall be  
715 known and may be cited as the "Mississippi Critical Teacher  
716 Shortage Act of 1998."

717       This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

718       **SECTION 4.** Section 37-159-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
719 brought forward as follows:



720           37-159-5. The State Board of Education shall prescribe rules  
721 and regulations which, subject to available appropriations, allow  
722 for reimbursement to the state licensed teachers, from both in  
723 state and out of state, who enter into a contract for employment  
724 in a school district situated within a geographical area of the  
725 state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as  
726 designated by the State Board of Education, for the expense of  
727 moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the  
728 teacher to a different geographical area than that in which the  
729 teacher resides before entering into such contract. In order to  
730 be eligible for the reimbursement, the teacher must apply to the  
731 local district and the district must obtain the prior approval  
732 from the department for reimbursement before the relocation  
733 occurs. If the reimbursement is approved, the department shall  
734 provide funds to the school district to reimburse the teacher an  
735 amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the  
736 documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating,  
737 including the expense of any professional moving company or  
738 persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles  
739 or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for state employees  
740 under Section 25-3-41 if the teacher used his personal vehicle or  
741 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated  
742 with the relocation in accordance with the department's  
743 established rules and regulations. No teacher may be reimbursed



744 for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1)  
745 occasion.

746 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the  
747 actual residence to which the teacher relocates to be within the  
748 boundaries of the school district which has executed a contract  
749 for employment with the teacher or within the boundaries of the  
750 area designated by the State Board of Education as the critical  
751 teacher shortage area in order for the teacher to be eligible for  
752 reimbursement for his moving expenses. However, teachers must  
753 relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi.

754 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

755 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-159-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
756 brought forward as follows:

757 37-159-7. The school board of any school district situated  
758 within a geographical area of the state where there exists a  
759 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of  
760 Education, in its discretion, may reimburse persons who interview  
761 for employment as a licensed teacher with the district for the  
762 mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course of travel  
763 to and from the interview by such persons at the rate authorized  
764 for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41. Any  
765 reimbursement by a school board under this section shall be paid  
766 from nonminimum education program funds.

767 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.



768           **SECTION 6.** Section 37-159-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
769 brought forward as follows:

770           37-159-9. (1) There is established the University Assisted  
771 Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant Program within the State  
772 Department of Education. The purposes of the program shall be to  
773 attract additional qualified teachers to those geographical areas  
774 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers  
775 and to retain the qualified teachers already serving as licensed  
776 teachers in geographical critical teacher shortage areas by making  
777 available scholarships to persons working towards a Master of  
778 Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree at an  
779 institution of higher learning whose teacher education program is  
780 approved by the State Board of Education.

781           (2) Any institution of higher learning in the State of  
782 Mississippi which offers a Master of Education degree or an  
783 Educational Specialist degree may apply to the department for  
784 participation in the program. As part of the program,  
785 participating institutions shall collaborate with the Mississippi  
786 Teacher Center to identify, recruit and place teacher education  
787 graduates, from both within the state and out of state, in school  
788 districts situated within those areas of the state where there  
789 exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State  
790 Board of Education.

791           (3) The State Department of Education shall provide funds to  
792 participating institutions of higher learning for the purpose of





793 awarding scholarships to qualified persons pursuing a Master of  
794 Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree at such  
795 institutions while rendering service to the state as a licensed  
796 teacher in a school district in a geographical area of the state  
797 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as approved by  
798 the State Board of Education. The financial scholarship shall be  
799 applied to the total cost for tuition, books, materials and fees  
800 at the institution in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed  
801 an amount equal to the highest total cost of tuition, books,  
802 materials and fees assessed by a state institution of higher  
803 learning during that school year. Teachers who relocate within  
804 Mississippi from out of state in order to participate in the  
805 program shall be classified as residents of the state for tuition  
806 purposes.

807 (4) Students awarded financial scholarships under the  
808 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant  
809 Program may receive such awards for a maximum of four (4) school  
810 years; however, the maximum number of awards which may be made  
811 shall not exceed the length of time required to complete the  
812 number of academic hours necessary to obtain a Master of Education  
813 degree or an Educational Specialist degree. Financial  
814 scholarships under the program shall not be based upon an  
815 applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

816 (5) Persons relocating to a geographical area of the state  
817 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as approved by



818 the State Board of Education, to participate in the University  
819 Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant Program shall be  
820 eligible for reimbursement for their moving expenses to the  
821 critical teacher shortage area from the State Board of Education.  
822 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
823 regulations necessary for the administration of the relocation  
824 expense reimbursement component of the University Assisted Teacher  
825 Recruitment and Retention Grant Program.

826 (6) Subject to the availability of funds, the State Board of  
827 Education may provide for professional development and support  
828 services as may be necessary for the retention of teachers  
829 participating in the program in those geographical areas of the  
830 state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers.

831 (7) Any person participating in the program who fails to  
832 complete a program of study that will enable that person to obtain  
833 a Master of Education degree or Educational Specialist degree  
834 shall become liable immediately to the State Board of Education  
835 for the sum of all awards made to that person under the program,  
836 plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the  
837 time the person abrogates his participation in the program.

838 (8) As a condition for participation in the program, a  
839 teacher shall agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a  
840 school district located in a geographical area of the state where  
841 there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the  
842 State Board of Education, for a period of not less than three (3)



843 years, which shall include those years of service rendered while  
844 obtaining the Master of Education degree or Educational Specialist  
845 degree. However, for any person who obtained a baccalaureate  
846 degree in education with a financial scholarship under the  
847 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program and who entered the  
848 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant  
849 Program before rendering service as a teacher, the period of  
850 employment for the purposes of this subsection shall be two (2)  
851 years, in addition to the employment commitment required under the  
852 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program. Service rendered by a  
853 participant as a licensed teacher in a school district in a  
854 geographical critical teacher shortage area before that teacher  
855 becomes a participant in the program may not be considered to  
856 fulfill the employment commitment required under this subsection.  
857 Any person failing to comply with this employment commitment in  
858 any required school year shall immediately be in breach of  
859 contract and become liable immediately to the State Department of  
860 Education for the sum of all scholarships awarded and relocation  
861 expenses granted to that person, less one-third (1/3) of the  
862 amount of that sum for each year that service was rendered, or for  
863 those persons whose required period of employment is two (2)  
864 years, less one-half (1/2) of the amount of that sum for each year  
865 that service was rendered, plus interest accruing at the current  
866 Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs, except in the  
867 case of a deferral for cause by the State Board of Education when



868 there is no employment position immediately available upon the  
869 teacher's obtaining of the Master of Education degree or  
870 Educational Specialist degree. After the period of such deferral,  
871 the person shall begin or resume the required teaching duties or  
872 shall become liable to the board under this subsection. If a  
873 claim for repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands  
874 of an attorney for collection after default, then the obligor  
875 shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a reasonable  
876 attorney's fee.

877 (9) All funds received by the State Department of Education  
878 from the repayment of scholarship awards and relocation expenses  
879 by program participants shall be deposited in the Mississippi  
880 Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

881 (10) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
882 regulations necessary for the proper administration of the  
883 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant  
884 Program.

885 This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

886 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-159-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
887 brought forward as follows:

888 37-159-11. (1) There is established the Mississippi  
889 Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program, which shall be a  
890 special home loan program for eligible licensed teachers who  
891 render service to the state in a geographical area of the state  
892 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated



893 by the State Board of Education. The home loan program shall be  
894 administered by the State Department of Education in conjunction  
895 with the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). The  
896 department may contract with one or more public or private  
897 entities to provide assistance in implementing and administering  
898 the program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
899 regulations regarding the implementation and administration of the  
900 program.

901 (2) Participation in the loan program shall be available to  
902 any licensed teacher who renders service in a geographical area of  
903 the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as  
904 designated by the State Board of Education. Any person who  
905 receives a loan under the program shall be required to purchase a  
906 house and reside in a county in which the school district for  
907 which the teacher is rendering service, or any portion of the  
908 school district, is located. The maximum amount of a loan that  
909 may be made under the program to any person shall be Six Thousand  
910 Dollars (\$6,000.00).

911 (3) Any loan made under the program to a person who actually  
912 renders service as a teacher in a geographical area of the state  
913 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated  
914 by the State Board of Education, shall be converted to an  
915 interest-free grant on the basis of one (1) year's service for  
916 one-third (1/3) of the amount of the loan. Any person who does  
917 not render three (3) years' service as a teacher in a geographical



918 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of  
919 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be  
920 liable to the State Department of Education for one-third (1/3) of  
921 the amount of the loan for each year that he does not render such  
922 service, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate  
923 at the time the person discontinues his service. If a claim for  
924 repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands of an  
925 attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an  
926 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

927 (4) All funds received by the State Department of Education  
928 as repayment of loans by program participants shall be deposited  
929 in the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

930 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

931 **SECTION 8.** Section 37-159-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
932 brought forward as follows:

933 37-159-13. (1) There is established a pilot program to  
934 provide for the construction of rental housing units for teachers  
935 in the West Tallahatchie School District, which pilot program  
936 shall be administered by the State Department of Education. The  
937 department may contract with one or more public or private  
938 entities to provide assistance in implementing and administering  
939 the program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
940 regulations regarding the implementation and administration of the  
941 program.



942 (2) The West Tallahatchie School District shall receive  
943 proposals from developers for the construction of the rental  
944 housing units, and submit its recommendation to the State  
945 Department of Education about which developer should construct the  
946 units. The department shall make the final determination about  
947 the developer that will construct the units.

948 (3) After selection of the developer, the department shall  
949 loan the developer not more than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars  
950 (\$200,000.00) for construction of the units. The interest rate on  
951 the loan shall be equal to one percent (1%) below the discount  
952 rate at the Federal Reserve Bank in the Federal Reserve district  
953 in which the school district is located, and the loan shall be  
954 repaid in not more than fifteen (15) years, as determined by the  
955 department. All funds received by the department as repayment of  
956 the principal and interest of the loan shall be deposited in the  
957 Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund. If a claim against  
958 the developer for repayment is placed in the hands of an attorney  
959 for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an additional  
960 amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

961 (4) The developer shall operate the rental housing units.  
962 For a period of ten (10) years or until such time as the loan to  
963 the developer is repaid, whichever is longer, the priority for  
964 residence in the units shall be given first to teachers employed  
965 by the school district, then to other licensed school district  
966 employees, and then to any other school district employees.



967 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

968 **SECTION 9.** Section 37-159-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
969 brought forward as follows:

970 37-159-17. There is established in the State Treasury a  
971 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Critical Teacher  
972 Shortage Fund," into which shall be deposited those funds  
973 appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that may be  
974 made available, for the purpose of implementing the programs  
975 established under Sections 37-159-5, 37-9-77, 37-3-91 and 37-159-9  
976 through 37-159-13. Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year  
977 shall not lapse into the General Fund, and interest earned on any  
978 amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special  
979 fund.

980 This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

981 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
982 and after July 1, 2018.

