

By: Representative Byrd

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 150  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-71, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE LOAN FORGIVENESS TO INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING  
3 INSTRUCTIONAL OR CLINICAL SERVICE AS A LICENSED DYSLEXIA THERAPIST  
4 IN A PUBLIC OR ELIGIBLE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FOR THE MISSISSIPPI  
5 DYSLEXIA FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-57,  
6 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT AWARDS GRANTED UNDER THE  
7 WILLIAM WINTER TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM SHALL BE AVAILABLE  
8 TO NONTRADITIONAL LICENSED TEACHERS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND  
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 37-106-71. (1) There is established the Mississippi  
14 Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan Program for the purpose of  
15 identifying and recruiting qualified university and college  
16 students from the state for schooling in education with a focus on  
17 dyslexia therapy.

18 (2) The receipt of a forgivable loan under the program shall  
19 be solely limited to those students who are enrolled in or who  
20 have been accepted for enrollment into a master's degree program  
21 of study for dyslexia therapy at any public or private institution



22 of higher learning within the State of Mississippi at the time an  
23 application for a forgivable loan is filed with the board.

24 (3) The annual amount of the forgivable loan award shall be  
25 equal to the total cost for tuition, materials and fees at the  
26 college or university in which the student is enrolled. Awards  
27 made to nonresidents of the state shall not include any amount  
28 assessed by the college or university for out-of-state tuition.

29 (4) Upon completion of the master's program and licensure  
30 requirements, a forgivable loan recipient who has not been  
31 previously licensed by the State Department of Education shall  
32 render service in an instructional or clinical capacity as a  
33 licensed \* \* \* dyslexia \* \* \* therapist in a public school  
34 district in the state or an eligible nonpublic school as defined  
35 by Section 37-173-1 and meets the criteria established in Section  
36 37-173-17, not to exceed five (5) recipients rendering  
37 instructional or clinical services in a nonpublic school at any  
38 time.

39 (5) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as  
40 those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

41 (6) The board shall prepare and submit a report to the  
42 Legislature by January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, outlining  
43 in detail the number of participants who have received forgivable  
44 loans under the program, the record of service provided by those  
45 recipients as they transition out of the degree program into the  
46 public school districts of this state, and the projection for



47 expanding the program to include more participants annually as  
48 determined by the need for such qualified professionals in the  
49 public school setting. Additionally, the report shall include a  
50 summary of allocations and expenditures for the administration of  
51 the program and the total amount of funds issued to recipients of  
52 forgivable loans from the inception of the program until such time  
53 as the report has been prepared and submitted to the Legislature.

54 (7) The Mississippi Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan  
55 Program shall be administered in the same manner as the Critical  
56 Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program established under Section  
57 37-106-55 and shall be incorporated into the Critical Needs  
58 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program for all purposes.

59 (8) Funding for the establishment and continued operation of  
60 the Mississippi Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan Program shall  
61 be administered by the board through a special fund established  
62 within the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program. The  
63 board may accept and receive monetary gifts and donations from any  
64 source, public or private, which such funds shall be deposited in  
65 the special fund for the benefit of the Mississippi Dyslexia  
66 Education Forgivable Loan Program with the Critical Needs Teacher  
67 Forgivable Loan Program.

68 (9) No more than twenty (20) students per cohort shall be  
69 selected annually to be admitted into the program for receipt of  
70 forgivable loans beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.  
71 However, forgivable loans awarded under the program shall be



72 provided only to students who have been accepted into a Dyslexia  
73 Therapy Master's Degree Cohort Program approved by the State  
74 Department of Education that provides instructional training as  
75 required under Chapter 173, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
76 for dyslexia therapy in preparation of those cohort students for  
77 AA licensure by the department.

78 (10) As part of the Mississippi Dyslexia Education  
79 Forgivable Loan Program, the State Department of Education is  
80 authorized and directed, subject to the availability of funds  
81 specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature, to provide  
82 financial assistance for the recruitment, placement and employment  
83 of qualified licensed dyslexia therapy professionals identified  
84 under Section 37-173-15(1)(b), Mississippi Code of 1972, in order  
85 to provide dyslexia screening, evaluation and therapy services to  
86 the students attending school in the school district. Said  
87 funding may be used to purchase curriculum materials and supplies  
88 for dyslexia therapy services. Said funding shall be provided to  
89 public school districts upon application therefor regardless of  
90 the financial need of the school district in an amount not to  
91 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) annually, and subject  
92 to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature. In order  
93 to qualify for such funds, the school district shall meet the  
94 following criteria:

95 (a) Use licensed dyslexia therapists or individuals  
96 participating in an approved training program resulting in State



97 Department of Education licensure to provide dyslexia therapy to  
98 students diagnosed with dyslexia;

99 (b) Use daily Orton-Gillingham-based therapy;

100 (c) Have school leadership trained in dyslexia; and

101 (d) Have a current School Program Verification and  
102 Assurances form on file with the State Department of Education,  
103 Office of Curriculum and Instruction. Procedures and standards  
104 for the application for such funds shall be established by  
105 regulations developed and issued by the State Board of Education.

106 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-106-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
107 amended as follows:

108 37-106-57. (1) It is the intention of the Legislature to  
109 attract and retain qualified teachers by awarding incentive loans  
110 to persons declaring an intention to serve in the teaching field  
111 and who actually render service to the state while possessing an  
112 appropriate teaching license.

113 (2) There is established the "William F. Winter Teacher  
114 Forgivable Loan Program."

115 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, students who are  
116 enrolled in any baccalaureate degree-granting institution of  
117 higher learning in the State of Mississippi that is regionally  
118 accredited and approved by the board and who have expressed in  
119 writing a present intention to teach in Mississippi shall be  
120 eligible for student loans to be applied to the costs of their  
121 college education. Persons who have been admitted to a teacher



122 education program or a nontraditional teacher internship licensure  
123 program authorized under Section 37-3-2(6) (b), as approved by the  
124 State Board of Education, shall also qualify for loans at approved  
125 institutions. The board shall provide that teacher education  
126 majors and noneducation majors shall have equal access to  
127 forgivable loans under authority of this section.

128 (4) A junior establishing initial eligibility shall be  
129 eligible for a maximum of two (2) annual loans and a senior shall  
130 be eligible for one (1) annual loan.

131 (5) The maximum annual loan shall be set by the board at an  
132 amount not to exceed the cost of attendance at any baccalaureate  
133 degree-granting institution of higher learning in the State of  
134 Mississippi. However, it is the intent of the Legislature that  
135 the maximum annual loan amounts under the William F. Winter  
136 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program shall not be of such amounts that  
137 would compete with the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan  
138 Program.

139 (6) The loans of persons who actually render service as  
140 licensed teachers or nontraditional teacher interns authorized  
141 under Section 37-3-2(6) (b) in a public school, including a charter  
142 school, in Mississippi for a major portion of the school day for  
143 at least seventy-eight (78) school days shall be converted to  
144 interest-free scholarships. Repayment and conversion terms shall  
145 be the same as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.



146           (7) Awards granted under the William F. Winter Teacher  
147 Forgivable Loan Program shall be made available to nontraditional  
148 licensed teachers showing a documented need for student loan  
149 repayment and employed in those school districts designated by the  
150 State Board of Education as a geographical area of the state or in  
151 a subject area of the curriculum in which there is a critical  
152 shortage of teachers. Repayment and conversion terms shall be the  
153 same as outlined in Section 37-106-53 except that the maximum  
154 annual amount of this repayment should not exceed Three Thousand  
155 Dollars (\$3,000.00) and the maximum time period for repayment  
156 shall be no more than four (4) years.

157           ( \* \* \*8) Failure to repay any loan and interest that  
158 becomes due shall be cause for the revocation of a person's  
159 teaching license by the State Department of Education.

160           ( \* \* \*9) The board shall promulgate regulations necessary  
161 for the proper administration of this section.

162           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
163 and after July 1, 2019.

