

By: Representative Henley

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1135

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, THE STATE
3 BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT OBJECTIVES THAT
4 FOCUS ON AMERICAN CIVICS FOR INCORPORATION INTO THE SOCIAL STUDIES
5 CURRICULUM STANDARDS OF EXISTING COURSES PROVIDED AT THE SECONDARY
6 EDUCATIONAL LEVEL; TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
7 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-1-3. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
12 and regulations and set standards and policies for the
13 organization, operation, management, planning, budgeting and
14 programs of the State Department of Education.

15 (a) The board is directed to identify all functions of
16 the department that contribute to or comprise a part of the state
17 system of educational accountability and to establish and maintain
18 within the department the necessary organizational structure,
19 policies and procedures for effectively coordinating such
20 functions. Such policies and procedures shall clearly fix and



21 delineate responsibilities for various aspects of the system and
22 for overall coordination of the total system and its effective
23 management.

24 (b) The board shall establish and maintain a
25 system-wide plan of performance, policy and directions of public
26 education not otherwise provided for.

27 (c) The board shall effectively use the personnel and
28 resources of the department to enhance technical assistance to
29 school districts in instruction and management therein.

30 (d) The board shall establish and maintain a central
31 budget policy.

32 (e) The board shall establish and maintain within the
33 State Department of Education a central management capacity under
34 the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

35 (f) The board, with recommendations from the
36 superintendent, shall design and maintain a five-year plan and
37 program for educational improvement that shall set forth
38 objectives for system performance and development and be the basis
39 for budget requests and legislative initiatives.

40 (2) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt and
41 maintain a curriculum and a course of study to be used in the
42 public school districts that * * * are designed to prepare the
43 state's children and youth to be productive, informed, creative
44 citizens, workers and leaders, and it shall regulate all matters



45 arising in the practical administration of the school system not
46 otherwise provided for.

47 (b) * * * The State Board of Education shall develop
48 personal living and finances objectives that focus on money
49 management skills for individuals and families for appropriate,
50 existing courses at the secondary level. The objectives must
51 require the teaching of those skills necessary to handle personal
52 business and finances and must include instruction in the
53 following:

54 (i) Opening a bank account and assessing the
55 quality of a bank's services;

56 (ii) Balancing a checkbook;

57 (iii) Managing debt, including retail and credit
58 card debt;

59 (iv) Completing a loan application;

60 (v) The implications of an inheritance;

61 (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;

62 (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;

63 (viii) Dealing with salesmen and merchants;

64 (ix) Computing state and federal income taxes;

65 (x) Local tax assessments;

66 (xi) Computing interest rates by various
67 mechanisms;

68 (xii) Understanding simple contracts; and

69 (xiii) Contesting an incorrect billing statement.



70 (c) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the State
71 Board of Education shall develop and implement objectives that
72 focus on American Civics, specifically the fundamental concepts of
73 the United States as a constitutional republic and the rights and
74 responsibilities of citizenship for incorporation into the social
75 studies curriculum standards of existing courses provided at the
76 secondary educational level. The objectives shall reflect
77 knowledge necessary to successfully obtain a passing score on the
78 Civics of the Naturalization Test administered by the United
79 States Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCIS), as required by
80 8 USCS Section 1423, if such assessment was administered. The
81 board shall determine the method and manner in which to implement
82 the objectives as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection, to
83 be formally indentified in codified state law and board policy as
84 American Civics, and directed under the authority of subsection
85 (1) of this section.

86 (3) The State Board of Education shall have authority to
87 expend any available federal funds, or any other funds expressly
88 designated, to pay training, educational expenses, salary
89 incentives and salary supplements to licensed teachers employed in
90 local school districts or schools administered by the State Board
91 of Education. Such incentive payments shall not be considered
92 part of a school district's local supplement as defined in Section
93 37-151-5(o), nor shall the incentives be considered part of the
94 local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of



95 Section 37-19-7(1). MAEP funds or any other state funds shall not
96 be used to provide such incentives unless specifically authorized
97 by law.

98 (4) The State Board of Education shall through its actions
99 seek to implement the policies set forth in Section 37-1-2.

100 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
101 amended as follows:

102 37-13-5. (1) The flag of the State of Mississippi and the
103 flag of the United States shall be displayed in close proximity to
104 the school building at all times during the hours of daylight when
105 the school is in session when the weather will permit without
106 damage to the flag. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees
107 of the school district to provide for the flags and their display.

108 (2) Whenever the flag of the United States is to be flown at
109 half-staff by order or instructions of the President or pursuant
110 to federal law, all public schools shall lower the United States
111 flag in accordance with the executive order or instructions or
112 federal law. The school shall announce the reason that the flag
113 is being flown at half-staff to all students in assembly or by
114 teachers in the various classrooms or by prominently displaying
115 written notice throughout the school stating the reason that the
116 flag has been lowered.

117 (3) In all public schools there shall be given a course of
118 study concerning the flag of the United States and the flag of the
119 State of Mississippi. The course of study shall include the



120 history of each flag and what they represent and the proper
121 respect therefor. There also shall be taught in the public
122 schools the duties and obligations of citizenship, patriotism,
123 Americanism and respect for and obedience to law, which shall be
124 components of the objectives for American Civics developed and
125 implemented by the State Board of Education for incorporation into
126 the social studies curriculum standards of existing courses
127 provided at the secondary educational level.

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

