

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2034

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-306, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PRESCRIBE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS;  
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-7-306, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 37-7-306. (1) Every school board member selected after July  
8 1, 2002, shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

9 (2) Every school board member selected after July 1, 1993,  
10 shall be required to complete a basic course of training and  
11 education for local school board members, in order for board  
12 members to carry out their duties more effectively and be exposed  
13 to new ideas involving school restructuring. Such basic course of  
14 training shall be conducted by the Mississippi School Boards  
15 Association. Upon completion of the basic course of training, the  
16 Mississippi School Boards Association shall file a certificate of  
17 completion for the school board member with the office of the  
18 local school board. In the event that a board member fails to



19 complete such training within six (6) months of his selection,  
20 such board member shall no longer be qualified to serve and shall  
21 be removed from office.

22 (3) In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection  
23 (2) of this section, after taking office, each school board member  
24 shall be required to file annually in the office of the school  
25 board a certificate of completion of a course of continuing  
26 education conducted by the Mississippi School Boards Association.  
27 In addition, those board members required to attend the additional  
28 training as provided in Section 37-3-4(5)(c) shall be required to  
29 comply with the annual certification provided herein for such  
30 additional training.

31 (4) Every school board member selected after July 1, 2002,  
32 shall spend at least one (1) full day in a school in the district  
33 they represent, without compensation.

34 (5) Every school board member selected after July 1, 2019,  
35 shall meet the following qualifications: A candidate for school  
36 board shall have at a minimum an associate degree from an  
37 accredited junior or community college or a minimum of sixty (60)  
38 semester hours and a minimum GPA of 2.0 from an accredited junior  
39 college, community college or four-year college or university.  
40 Proof of said requirement in the form of a certified transcript  
41 shall be made at the time the candidate qualifies to run for  
42 office. The educational qualifications required in this



43 subsection (5) shall not be applicable to any school board member  
44 who was serving on a school board on July 1, 2019.

45 ( \* \* \*6) Upon the failure of any local school board member  
46 to file with the school board the certificate of completion of the  
47 basic or continuing course of training as provided in subsection  
48 (2) or (3) of this section, or the additional training as required  
49 in Section 37-3-4(5)(c), or the additional educational  
50 qualifications as required in subsection (5) of this section, the  
51 school board member shall be removed from office by the Attorney  
52 General. In the event of a medical or other catastrophic hardship  
53 that prevents such school board member from obtaining the required  
54 training or filing such certificate, as may be defined by the  
55 Board of Directors of the Mississippi School Boards Association by  
56 rule and regulation, an additional period of three (3) months may  
57 be allowed to satisfy the requirements of subsection (2) or (3).

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2019.

