

By: Representative Lamar

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 751
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-159-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL NO. 2508, 2020 REGULAR SESSION, TO
3 REMOVE REQUIREMENT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
4 ADMINISTER THE MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYER ASSISTED HOUSING TEACHER
5 PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE
6 ASSOCIATION; TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THIS SECTION;
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-159-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
10 amended by Senate Bill No. 2508, 2020 Regular Session, is amended
11 as follows:

12 37-159-11. (1) There is established the Mississippi
13 Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program, which shall be a
14 special home loan program for eligible licensed teachers who
15 render service to the state in a geographical area of the state
16 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
17 by the State Board of Education. The home loan program shall be
18 administered by the State Department of Education * * *. The
19 department may contract with one or more public or private
20 entities to provide assistance in implementing and administering



21 the program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
22 regulations regarding the implementation and administration of the
23 program.

24 (2) Participation in the loan program shall be available to
25 any licensed teacher who renders service in a geographical area of
26 the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as
27 designated by the State Board of Education. Any person who
28 receives a loan under the program shall be required to purchase a
29 house and reside in a county in which the school district for
30 which the teacher is rendering service, or any portion of the
31 school district, is located. The maximum amount of a loan that
32 may be made under the program to any person shall be Six Thousand
33 Dollars (\$6,000.00).

34 (3) Any loan made under the program to a person who actually
35 renders service as a teacher in a geographical area of the state
36 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
37 by the State Board of Education, shall be converted to an
38 interest-free grant on the basis of one (1) year's service for
39 one-third (1/3) of the amount of the loan. Any person who does
40 not render three (3) years' service as a teacher in a geographical
41 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
42 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be
43 liable to the State Department of Education for one-third (1/3) of
44 the amount of the loan for each year that he does not render such
45 service, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate



46 at the time the person discontinues his service. If a claim for
47 repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands of an
48 attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an
49 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

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

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54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2020.

