

By: Representative McCarty

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1147

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE FORGIVABLE LOAN UNDER THE TEACHER EDUCATION
3 ALTERNATE ROUTE CERTIFICATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF
4 PRESCRIBING ANNUAL FORGIVABLE LOAN CAPS UNTIL IT REACHES A
5 CAPACITY OF 1,000 RECIPIENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-106-79. (1) There is created the Teacher Education
10 Alternate Route Certification Scholars Program to be administered
11 by the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.
12 Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the program shall
13 provide an annual forgivable loan not to exceed Five Thousand
14 Dollars (\$5,000.00) for one (1) of the following alternate route
15 programs:

- 16 (a) Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers
- 17 Training Institute;
- 18 (b) Teach Mississippi Institute;
- 19 (c) Career Tech Education (CTE); or



20 (d) Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

21 (2) Qualifying alternate route certification teacher
22 education scholars must:

23 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally or
24 nationally accredited institution of higher learning;

25 (b) Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale on
26 the last sixty (60) credit hours of baccalaureate work, as
27 reported by the graduating institution; and

28 (c) Meet the Mississippi minimum score requirements for
29 national exams as required for educator certification as
30 determined by the State Department of Education.

31 (3) A teacher education alternate route certified scholar
32 who completes the program shall render one (1) year's service as a
33 teacher in a Mississippi public school for each year that the
34 scholar received an award under the program. Repayment and
35 conversion terms shall be the same as outlined in Section
36 37-106-53.

37 (4) The State Board of Education and the Postsecondary
38 Education Financial Assistance Board shall promulgate such rules
39 as are necessary to administer the Teacher Education Alternate
40 Route Certification Scholars Program and establish necessary
41 eligibility criteria not specifically set forth in this section.

42 (5) Awards granted under the Teacher Education Alternate
43 Route Certification Scholars Program shall be made available to
44 nontraditional licensed teachers showing a documented need for



45 student loan repayment and employed in those school districts
46 designated by the State Board of Education as a geographical area
47 of the state or in a subject area of the curriculum in which there
48 is a critical shortage of teachers. Repayment and conversion
49 terms shall be the same as outlined in Section 37-106-53 except
50 that the maximum annual amount of this repayment should not exceed
51 Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) and the maximum time period for
52 repayment shall be no more than four (4) years.

53 (6) * * * Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, the
54 number of scholars eligible to receive a forgivable loan
55 authorized under this section shall not exceed two hundred (200).
56 Each year thereafter, for the next four (4) academic years, an
57 additional two hundred (200) scholars may be added to the program
58 until the program reaches a maximum capacity of one thousand
59 (1,000) scholars eligible to receive a forgivable loan under the
60 program. Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, and each
61 year thereafter, the program shall not award more than one
62 thousand (1,000) scholars with a forgivable loan under this
63 program.

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

