

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2286

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1 **AMEND** by deleting all language from lines 14 through 312 and
2 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

3 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-179-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4 amended as follows:

5 37-179-1. (1) For purposes of this chapter, the following
6 terms shall have the meaning ascribed herein, unless the context
7 clearly indicates otherwise:

8 (a) "District of innovation" means a district that has
9 developed a plan of innovation in compliance with this section and
10 has been approved by the State Board of Education to be exempted
11 from certain administrative regulations and statutory provisions
12 to improve the educational performance of students within the
13 district;

14 (b) "Innovation" means a new or creative alternative to
15 existing instructional and administrative practices intended to
16 improve student learning and student performance of all students,
17 including community schools;

18 (c) "School of innovation" means a school that
19 voluntarily participates in a district of innovation plan to
20 improve instruction, including waivers and exemptions from local
21 school board policies, selected provisions of rules and

22 regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education, and
23 selected sections of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as permitted
24 under this section and Section * * * 37-179-3;

25 (d) "Board" means the State Board of Education;

26 (e) "Department" means the State Department of
27 Education.

28 (f) "Community school" means a traditional district
29 public school that partners with community-based organizations to
30 coordinate academic, social, physical health and mental health
31 services, to reduce barriers to learning and improve education
32 outcomes. Community schools include all five (5) of the
33 following:

34 (i) Integrated student supports coordinated by a
35 community school director, which may include, but are not limited
36 to:

37 1. Medical, dental, vision care and mental
38 health services; or

39 2. Counselors to assist with housing,
40 transportation, nutrition, or criminal justice issues;

41 (ii) Expanded and enriched learning time and
42 opportunities including before school, after school, weekend and
43 summer programs, which provide additional academic instruction,
44 individualized academic support, enrichment activities, and
45 learning opportunities that emphasize real-world learning and
46 community problem solving, and which may include, but are not
47 limited to:

- 48 1. Art, music, drama and creative writing;
49 2. Hands-on experience with engineering or
50 science;
51 3. Tutoring and homework help; and
52 4. Recreational programs that enhance and are
53 consistent with the school's curriculum;

54 (iii) Active family and community engagement which
55 brings students' families and the community into the school as
56 partners in children's education and makes the school a
57 neighborhood hub, providing adults with educational opportunities
58 they want, including, but not limited to:

- 59 1. English as a second language class;
60 2. Citizenship preparation;
61 3. Computer skills;
62 4. Art;
63 5. GED classes; or
64 6. Other programs that bring community
65 members into the building for meetings or events;

66 (iv) Include, as a meaningful part of its
67 curriculum, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
68 (STEM) program component commensurate and appropriate to the grade
69 level of the school; and

70 (v) Collaborative leadership and practices, which
71 build a culture of professional learning, collective trust, and
72 shared responsibility using strategies which shall, at a minimum,
73 include:

74 1. A school-based leadership team;
75 2. A community school director; and
76 3. A community-wide leadership team, which
77 may include, but not limited to:

78 A. Other leadership and governance
79 teams;
80 B. Teacher learning communities; and
81 C. Other staff to manage the multiple,
82 complex, joint work of school and community organizations.

83 (g) "Community School Director" means a person who:

84 (i) Is a full-time staff member serving one (1)
85 eligible school;

86 (ii) Is responsible for the identification,
87 implementation and coordination of integrated student supports,
88 expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities, family and
89 community engagement and collaborative leadership and practices;

90 (iii) Serves as a member of the school-based
91 leadership team;

92 (iv) Serves as the lead for the needs and assets
93 assessment and community school plan; and

94 (v) Coordinates the needs and assets assessment
95 and stakeholder-driven approach to problem-solving and continuous
96 improvement.

97 (2) The State Board of Education is authorized to approve
98 districts of innovation for the purposes of improving students'
99 educational performance. Districts of innovation shall be

100 provided flexibility from selected board regulations, Title 37,
101 Mississippi Code of 1972, and local school board policies for
102 school administrators, teachers and staff to meet the diverse
103 needs of students. A low-performing school or school district
104 managing the transition of multiple schools to the community
105 school model shall be provided a three-year transition before
106 becoming eligible for state takeover. The initial approval of a
107 district of innovation shall be for a five-year period. Each
108 renewal of a district of innovation shall not exceed five (5)
109 years and shall comply with administrative regulations promulgated
110 by the board pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

111 (3) The board shall promulgate administrative rules and
112 regulations to prescribe the conditions and procedures to be used
113 by a local school board to be approved as a district of innovation
114 and shall publish the same on or before December 31, 2015.

115 (4) Administrative rules and regulations promulgated by the
116 board under subsection (3) of this section shall specify:

117 (a) The regulatory areas which may be exempted or
118 modified if approved by the board, except as provided in Section
119 37-179-3(2), and in addition to those areas identified in Section
120 37-179-3(3);

121 (b) The application, plan review, approval and
122 amendment process for a district;

123 (c) Timelines for initial approval as a district of
124 innovation, the renewal process and ongoing evaluative procedures
125 required of the district;

126 (d) Acceptable documentation of a critical mass of
127 parental, community, educator and business support and capacity to
128 effect a change;

129 (e) Evidence of teacher collaboration and shared
130 leadership within the district and the schools to be designated as
131 schools of innovation;

132 (f) The process of revocation of the designation of
133 district of innovation or school of innovation;

134 (g) Reporting and oversight responsibilities of the
135 district and the State Department of Education;

136 (h) The financial detail relating to budgets of schools
137 and evidence of sound fiscal management practices;

138 (i) Acceptable areas of emphasis for innovation;

139 (j) Acceptable documentation of job-embedded
140 professional development within the proposed innovation design;
141 and

142 (k) Other components deemed necessary to implement this
143 section and Section 37-179-3.

144 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-179-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
145 amended as follows:

146 37-179-3. (1) A district which is an applicant to be
147 designated as a district of innovation under Section 37-179-1
148 shall:

149 (a) Establish goals and performance targets for the
150 district of innovation proposal, which may include:

151 (i) Reducing socio-economic achievement gaps among
152 groups of public school students by expanding learning experiences
153 for students who are identified as academically low-achieving;

154 (ii) Increasing pupil learning through the
155 implementation of high, rigorous standards for pupil performance;

156 (iii) Increasing student attendance rates as well
157 as reducing chronic absenteeism;

158 (iv) Decreasing rates of student suspensions and
159 expulsions;

160 (* * * v) Increasing the participation of students
161 in various curriculum components and instructional components
162 within selected schools to enhance at each grade level;

163 (* * * vi) Increasing the number of students who
164 are college and career-ready and who have access to
165 dual-enrollment courses;

166 (vii) Increasing student college preparation to
167 enter secondary education in the areas of science, technology,
168 engineering and mathematics.

169 (* * * viii) Motivating students at different
170 grade levels by offering more curriculum choices and student
171 learning opportunities to parents and students within the
172 district;

173 (b) Make public its goals and performance targets and,
174 after five (5) years, share the performance target results with
175 members of the Mississippi House and Senate Education Committees,
176 as well as with the general public;

177 (* * *c) Identify changes needed from a comprehensive
178 needs and assets assessment in the district and schools to lead to
179 better prepared students for success in college, career and
180 life * * *;

181 (* * *d) Have a districtwide plan of innovation that
182 describes and justifies which schools and innovative practices
183 will be incorporated;

184 (* * *e) Provide documentation of community, educator,
185 parental, and the local board's support of the proposed
186 innovations;

187 (* * *f) Provide detailed information regarding the
188 rationale of requests for waivers from Title 37, Mississippi Code
189 of 1972, which relate to the elementary and secondary education of
190 public school students, and administrative regulations, and
191 exemptions for selected schools regarding waivers of local school
192 board policies;

193 (* * *g) Document the fiscal and human resources the
194 board will provide throughout the term of the implementation of
195 the innovations within its plan; and

196 (* * *h) Provide other materials as required by the
197 department in compliance with the board's administrative
198 regulations and application procedures.

199 (2) The district and all schools participating in a
200 district's innovation plan shall:

201 (a) Ensure the same health, safety, civil rights, and
202 disability rights requirements as are applied to all public
203 schools;

204 (b) Ensure students meet compulsory attendance
205 requirements under Sections 37-13-91 and 37-13-92;

206 (c) Ensure that high school course offerings meet or
207 exceed the minimum required under Sections 37-16-7 and 37-3-49,
208 for high school graduation or meet early graduation requirements
209 that may be enacted by the Mississippi Legislature;

210 (d) Ensure the student performance standards meet or
211 exceed those adopted by the State Board of Education as required
212 by Sections 37-3-49, 37-16-3 and 37-17-6, including compliance
213 with the statewide assessment system specified in Chapter 16,
214 Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972;

215 (e) Adhere to the same financial audits, audit
216 procedures, and audit requirements as are applied under Section
217 7-7-211(e);

218 (f) Require state and criminal background checks for
219 staff and volunteers as required of all public school employees
220 and volunteers within the public schools and specified in Section
221 37-9-17;

222 (g) Comply with open records and open meeting
223 requirements under Sections 25-41-1 et seq. and 25-61-1 et seq.;

224 (h) Comply with purchasing requirements and limitations
225 under Chapter 39, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972;

226 (i) Provide overall instructional time that is
227 equivalent to or greater than that required under Sections 37-1-11
228 and 37-13-67, but which may include on-site instruction, distance
229 learning, online courses, and work-based learning on
230 nontraditional school days or hours; and

231 (j) Provide data to the department as deemed necessary
232 to generate school and district reports.

233 (3) (a) Only schools that choose to be designated as
234 schools of innovation shall be included in a district's
235 application;

236 (b) As used in this paragraph, "eligible employees"
237 means employees that are regularly employed at the school and
238 those employees whose primary job duties will be affected by the
239 plan; and

240 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of
241 this subsection, a local school board may require a school that
242 has been identified as a persistently low-achieving school under
243 provisions of Section 37-17-6 to participate in the district's
244 plan of innovation.

245 (4) Notwithstanding any statutes to the contrary, the board
246 may approve the requests of districts of innovation to:

247 (a) Use capital outlay funds for operational costs;

248 (b) Hire persons for classified positions in
249 nontraditional school and district assignments who have bachelors
250 and advanced degrees from postsecondary education institutions
251 accredited by a regional accrediting association (Southern

252 Association of Colleges and Schools) or by an organization
253 affiliated with the National Commission on Accrediting;

254 (c) Employ teachers on extended employment contracts or
255 extra duty contracts and compensate them on a salary schedule
256 other than the single salary schedule;

257 (d) Extend the school days as is appropriate within the
258 district with compensation for the employees as determined
259 locally;

260 (e) Establish alternative education programs and
261 services that are delivered in nontraditional hours and which may
262 be jointly provided in cooperation with another school district or
263 consortia of districts;

264 (f) Establish online classes within the district for
265 delivering alternative classes in a blended environment to meet
266 high school graduation requirements;

267 (g) Use a flexible school calendar;

268 (h) Convert existing schools into schools of
269 innovation; * * *

270 (i) Modify the formula under Section 37-151-7 for
271 distributing support education funds for students in average daily
272 attendance in nontraditional programming time, including
273 alternative programs and virtual programs. Funds granted to a
274 district shall not exceed those that would have otherwise been
275 distributed based on average daily attendance during regular
276 instructional days * * *; and

277 (j) Allow community schools to seek and accept gifts,
278 grants, donations, and funds from federal and state agencies,
279 private foundations, organizations, or individuals for purposes
280 related to its function as a community school.

281 **AMEND FURTHER THE TITLE** by deleting lines 1 through 11 and
282 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

283 "TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-179-1 AND 37-179-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
284 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE THE
285 CREATION OF DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS
286 RELATED TO "DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION"; TO LIMIT THE INITIAL
287 APPROVAL AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWALS OF DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION TO
288 FIVE-YEAR PERIODS; TO DIRECT THE BOARD TO PROMULGATE
289 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO PRESCRIBE THE CONDITIONS
290 AND PROCEDURES TO BE USED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO BE APPROVED AS
291 A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION; TO SPECIFY THE CRITERIA TO BE ADDRESSED
292 BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS; TO PRESCRIBE THE REQUIREMENTS
293 FOR A DISTRICT TO BE A DISTRICT OF INNOVATION APPLICANT; TO
294 PRESCRIBE THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS WITH WHICH SCHOOLS OF
295 INNOVATION WITHIN DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION MUST COMPLY; TO IDENTIFY
296 AREAS IN WHICH DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION MAY REQUEST APPROVAL OF
297 PRACTICES THAT ARE DIFFERENT THAN CURRENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS"

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Andrew Ketchings
Clerk of the House of Representatives