

By: Representatives McCarty, Owen, McLean,  
Summers, Gibbs (72nd), Hudson, Anthony,  
Stamps

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1179  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY NEW SECTION 37-106-36, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO CREATE THE "WILLIAM F. WINTER AND JACK REED, SR., TEACHER  
3 LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM" TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE FINANCIAL  
4 AID BOARD; TO PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS UNDER  
5 THE LOAN PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH THE WILLIAM F. WINTER AND JACK  
6 REED, SR., LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND; TO REPEAL SECTION  
7 37-106-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE ASSISTANT  
8 TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-106-37,  
9 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE TEACHER EDUCATION  
10 SCHOLARS FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-106-57,  
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE WILLIAM F. WINTER  
12 TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-106-77,  
13 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE MISSISSIPPI TEACHING  
14 FELLOWS FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-106-79,  
15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE TEACHER EDUCATION  
16 ALTERNATE ROUTE CERTIFICATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED  
17 PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
20 37-106-36, Mississippi Code of 1972:

21 37-106-36. (1) There is established the "William F. Winter  
22 and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program."

23 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, an eligible  
24 applicant for an initial award must have:



25 (a) Graduated from a baccalaureate degree-granting  
26 institution of higher learning which is regionally accredited by  
27 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a  
28 comparable accreditation body;

29 (b) Signed a contract as a full-time first-year teacher  
30 in a public school district in Mississippi;

31 (c) Obtained a standard five-year license. Persons  
32 with emergency licenses shall not be eligible applicants; and

33 (d) Outstanding qualifying undergraduate educational  
34 loans, which may include the principal, interest and related  
35 expenses such as the required interest premium on the unpaid  
36 balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the  
37 recipient for undergraduate educational expense.

38 (3) Persons who have received funds from other forgivable  
39 loan programs established for teachers under Mississippi law, or  
40 who are presently in default or delinquent on any federal, state,  
41 local or commercial qualifying educational loan, shall not be  
42 eligible for this program.

43 (4) Initial recipients shall be selected on a first-come,  
44 first-served basis of all eligible applicants, which shall be  
45 limited to only one hundred fifty (150) individuals receiving  
46 scholarship funds. In the second and subsequent years of an  
47 applicant's continued eligibility, priority consideration shall  
48 first be given to renewal applicants. In any given year only one



hundred fifty (150) new applicants shall be eligible to receive funds under the program.

(5) Among first-time, first-year teacher recipients, priority consideration shall be given to persons who are teaching in a public school district designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area by the State Board of Education.

(6) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to teach in a public school district that is not designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

(a) One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for the first year of teaching;

(b) Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the second year of teaching; and

(c) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for the third year of teaching.

(7) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to teach in a public school district that is designated as a geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

(a) Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the first year of teaching;

(b) Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the second year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the same public school district or another public school district designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of Education; and



74 (c) Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the third year  
75 of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the same  
76 public school district or another public school district  
77 designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of  
78 Education.

79 (8) A first-year recipient who moves to another public  
80 school district shall be eligible to receive an award based on the  
81 amount allowed under the program in the new district where the  
82 teacher is employed.

83 (9) Awards shall be granted on a year-to-year basis, and  
84 recipients shall have no obligation to seek a future award.

85 (10) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of  
86 the one-year teaching contract for which the award was granted, to  
87 the recipient's lender or loan service provider, and shall be  
88 applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid on the  
89 recipient's behalf toward qualifying undergraduate educational  
90 loans prior to receiving payment of the award shall not be  
91 eligible for repayment through the program.

92 (11) During the teaching year for which the award is  
93 granted, a recipient must at all times keep the State Financial  
94 Aid Board informed of any changes to the recipient's current  
95 contact information and employment status.

96 (12) Recipients who fail to maintain a standard license or  
97 fail to fulfill the one-year teaching contract on which the award  
98 was based shall forfeit any right to the award.



99           (13) The State Financial Aid Board, in collaboration with  
100 the State Board of Education, shall track recipients of an award  
101 under this program through their fifth teaching year, unless the  
102 recipient shall leave teaching in a public school district at an  
103 earlier date. Data collected shall include recipients'  
104 undergraduate institution, school district, subject area/grade  
105 level in teaching and any other pertinent information necessary to  
106 determine the efficacy of the program in retaining teachers in  
107 their first three (3) years of teaching.

108           (14) The State Financial Aid Board shall promulgate  
109 regulations necessary for the proper administration of this  
110 section.

111           (15) There is established in the State Treasury a special  
112 fund to be designated the "William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr.,  
113 Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those  
114 funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that  
115 may be made available, for the purpose of implementing the loan  
116 repayment program established herein. Money in the fund at the  
117 end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the General Fund, and  
118 interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be  
119 credited to the special fund.

120           (16) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2024.

121           **SECTION 2.** Section 37-106-35, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
122 which creates the Assistant Teacher Forgivable Loan Program, is  
123 repealed.



124       **SECTION 3.** Section 37-106-37, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
125 which creates the Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan  
126 Program, is repealed.

127       **SECTION 4.** Section 37-106-57, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
128 which creates the William F. Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan  
129 Program, is repealed.

130       **SECTION 5.** Section 37-106-77, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
131 which creates the Mississippi Teaching Fellows Forgivable Loan  
132 Program, is repealed.

133       **SECTION 6.** Section 37-106-79, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
134 which creates the Teacher Education Alternate Route Certification  
135 Scholars Program, is repealed.

136       **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
137 and after July 1, 2021.

