

By: Senator(s) Blount

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2305

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 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

20 37-106-36. (1) There is established the "William F. Winter  
 21 and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program."

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



24 (a) Graduated from a baccalaureate degree-granting  
25 institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi which  
26 is regionally accredited and approved by the board;

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

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

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

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

41 (4) Initial recipients shall be selected on a first-come,  
42 first-served basis of all eligible applicants. Priority  
43 consideration shall first be given to renewal applicants.

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



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

51                   (a) Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for  
52 the first year of teaching;

53                   (b) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for  
54 the second year of teaching; and

55                   (c) Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for  
56 the third year of teaching.

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

60                   (a) Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for  
61 the first year of teaching;

62                   (b) Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for  
63 the second year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to  
64 teach in the same public school district or in the same subject  
65 area; and

66                   (c) Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500.00) for  
67 the third year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to  
68 teach in the same public school district or in the same subject  
69 area.

70           (8) Awards shall be granted on a year-to-year basis, and  
71 recipients shall have no obligation to seek a future award.



72           (9) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of  
73 the one-year teaching contract for which the award was granted, to  
74 the recipient's lender or loan service provider, and shall be  
75 applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid on the  
76 recipient's behalf toward qualifying undergraduate educational  
77 loans prior to receiving payment of the award shall not be  
78 eligible for repayment through the program.

79           (10) During the teaching year for which the award is  
80 granted, a recipient must at all times keep the State Financial  
81 Aid Board informed of any changes to the recipient's current  
82 contact information and employment status.

83           (11) Recipients who fail to maintain a standard license or  
84 fail to fulfill the one-year teaching contract on which the award  
85 was based shall forfeit any right to the award.

86           (12) The State Financial Aid Board, in collaboration with  
87 the State Board of Education, shall track recipients of an award  
88 under this program through their fifth teaching year, unless the  
89 recipient shall leave teaching in a public school district at an  
90 earlier date. Data collected shall include recipients'  
91 undergraduate institution, school district, subject area/grade  
92 level in teaching and any other pertinent information necessary to  
93 determine the efficacy of the program in retaining teachers in  
94 their first three years of teaching.



95 (13) The State Financial Aid Board shall promulgate  
96 regulations necessary for the proper administration of this  
97 section.

98 (14) There is established in the State Treasury a special  
99 fund to be designated the "William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr.,  
100 Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those  
101 funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that  
102 may be made available, for the purpose of implementing the loan  
103 repayment program established herein. Money in the fund at the  
104 end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the General Fund, and  
105 interest earned on any amounts deposited into the fund shall be  
106 credited to the special fund.

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

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

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

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



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

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

