

By: Senator(s) Blount, Barnett, Barrett, Blackwell, Butler, Caughman, Chassaniol, DeBar, Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, McLendon, McMahan, Norwood, Parker, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Sparks, Thomas, Williams, Witherspoon

To: Education; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2305
(As Passed the Senate)

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. Priority
45 consideration shall first be given to renewal applicants.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

64 (b) Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for
65 the second year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to
66 teach in the same public school district or another public school
67 district designated a geographical shortage area by the State
68 Board of Education; and

69 (c) Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500.00) for
70 the third year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to
71 teach in the same public school district or another public school
72 district designated a geographical shortage area by the State
73 Board of Education.



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

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

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

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

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

94 (13) The State Financial Aid Board, in collaboration with
95 the State Board of Education, shall track recipients of an award
96 under this program through their fifth teaching year, unless the
97 recipient shall leave teaching in a public school district at an
98 earlier date. Data collected shall include recipients'



99 undergraduate institution, school district, subject area/grade
100 level in teaching and any other pertinent information necessary to
101 determine the efficacy of the program in retaining teachers in
102 their first three (3) years of teaching.

103 (14) The State Financial Aid Board shall promulgate
104 regulations necessary for the proper administration of this
105 section.

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

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

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

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



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

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

130 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
131 and after July 1, 2021, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2021.

