

By: Representative Hines

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 354

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-6-11 AND 37-6-13, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO BE GRANTED
3 EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS DUE TO FAMILY
4 EMERGENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ILLNESS OR DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE
5 FAMILY MEMBER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-6-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-6-11. The school boards of all school districts shall
10 meet regularly at such time and at such place as shall be
11 designated by an order entered upon the minutes thereof. Special
12 meetings of such boards shall be held upon the call of the
13 president thereof, or upon the call of a majority of the members
14 thereof. Attendance at special meetings may not be taken into
15 account for purposes of per diem or annual salary compensation, as
16 prescribed under Section 37-6-13.

17 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:



19 37-6-13. (1) Each person serving as a member of the school
20 board of any school district shall receive per diem in the amount
21 of Sixty-seven Dollars (\$67.00) for no more than thirty-six (36)
22 meetings of the school board during any one (1) fiscal year or, in
23 his or her discretion, irrevocably may choose to receive as
24 compensation for his or her services an annual salary in the
25 amount of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00), which
26 choice shall remain in force for all successive terms or periods
27 of service of that member. The receipt of the compensation shall
28 not entitle any member of a school board to receive or be eligible
29 for any state employee group insurance, retirement or other fringe
30 benefits. Each member shall be reimbursed for the necessary
31 expenses and mileage in attending meetings of the school board.
32 In addition to the foregoing, all members may be reimbursed for
33 mileage and actual expenses incurred in the further performance of
34 their duties, including attendance at any mandatory school board
35 training session or at regional and national education meetings,
36 when such mileage and other expenses are authorized by the board
37 prior to the date on which they occur. Detailed vouchers shall be
38 submitted for reimbursement for all expenses authorized by this
39 section. Such reimbursement shall be in accordance with Section
40 25-3-41.

41 Such expenses shall be paid on order of the school board by
42 pay certificates issued by the superintendent of the school



43 district involved against the funds available for payment of the
44 administrative expense of the district.

45 (2) (a) If a member of a school board misses twenty percent
46 (20%) or more of the meetings of the school board during a
47 calendar year, except for absences caused by required military
48 duty or a major family emergency as the result of the illness or
49 death of an immediate family member, the member must reimburse the
50 school district that portion of the total salary paid to the
51 member that year which is proportionate to the number of meetings
52 missed by the member in relation to the total number of school
53 board meetings held during that year. For purposes of this
54 subsection, consideration may be given only to meetings of which
55 public notice is required. For purposes of this paragraph, the
56 term "immediate family member" includes the spouse, children,
57 parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters of the board member.

58 (b) Before February 1 of each year, the president of
59 each local school board shall submit a report to the State Board
60 of Education containing the names of any members of the school
61 board who missed twenty percent (20%) or more of the school board
62 meetings during the preceding calendar year.

63 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2022.

