

By: Representatives Boyd, Crawford

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 511

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE ASSISTANT TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM TO
3 INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO TEACHER
4 ASSISTANTS AND TEACHER'S AIDES TO EQUAL THE ACTUAL COST OF SIX
5 THREE-HOUR COURSES PER YEAR; TO REMOVE THE PROVISION LIMITING THE
6 PURPOSE OF THE LOAN FOR CRITICAL TEACHER SHORTAGE AREAS; AND FOR
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-106-35. (1) There is established the assistant teacher
12 forgivable loan program for the purpose of assisting eligible
13 assistant teachers and teacher's aides to become * * * licensed
14 teachers through the awarding of forgivable loans and to attract
15 and retain qualified teachers * * *. The forgivable loan program
16 shall be implemented and administered by the board and is subject
17 to the availability of funds appropriated specifically therefor by
18 the Legislature.

19 (2) Under the assistant teacher forgivable loan program,
20 qualified assistant teachers and teacher's aides may be awarded



21 financial assistance in an amount that is equal to the actual cost
22 of * * * six (6) three-hour academic courses per year. * * * An
23 assistant teacher forgivable loan shall not be based upon an
24 applicant's financial need, and the receipt of any other
25 forgivable loan or financial assistance shall not affect an
26 assistant teacher's or teacher's aides eligibility under the
27 program.

28 (3) In order to qualify for an assistant teacher * * *
29 forgivable loan, an applicant must satisfy the following
30 requirements:

31 (a) The applicant must be employed full-time as an
32 assistant teacher or teacher's aide with a local school district;

33 (b) The applicant must be accepted for enrollment at a
34 baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher learning in
35 the State of Mississippi that is regionally accredited and
36 approved by the board; and

37 (c) The assistant teacher or teacher's aide must
38 maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75
39 calculated on a 4.0 scale for all courses funded through the
40 assistant teacher forgivable loan program * * *.

41 * * *

42 (4) At the beginning of the school year next succeeding the
43 date on which a person who has received an assistant teacher
44 forgivable loan obtains a baccalaureate degree, that person shall
45 begin to render service as a certificated teacher in a school



46 district or academic subject area, or both, designated by the
47 State Board of Education. The board shall establish by rule and
48 regulation the duration of teaching service due for recipients of
49 forgivable loans based upon the number of academic hours funded
50 through the assistant teacher forgivable loan program. Repayment
51 and conversion terms shall be the same as those outlined in
52 Section 37-106-53.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2022.

