To: Ways and Means

By: Representatives Burnett, Mickens

HOUSE BILL NO. 1213

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-57-104, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 2 TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVYING AUTHORITY FOR A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN 3 CONSERVATORSHIP TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, IN FULL OR IN PART, A REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE AD VALOREM TAX EFFORT FOR THE 4 5 SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 37-57-105, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 6 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 37-57-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH RELATES 7 TO THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, FOR PURPOSES 8 9 OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

- 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
- 11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-57-104, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 12 amended as follows:
- 13 37-57-104. (1) Each school board shall submit to the
- 14 levying authority for the school district a certified copy of an
- order adopted by the school board requesting an ad valorem tax
- 16 effort in dollars for the support of the school district. The
- 17 copy of the order shall be submitted by the school board when the
- 18 copies of the school district's budget are filed with the levying
- 19 authority pursuant to Section 37-61-9. Upon receipt of the school
- 20 board's order requesting the ad valorem tax effort in dollars, the
- 21 levying authority shall determine the millage rate necessary to

- 22 generate funds equal to the dollar amount requested by the school
- 23 board. For the purpose of calculating this millage rate, any
- 24 additional amount that is levied pursuant to Section 37-57-105(1)
- 25 to cover anticipated delinquencies and costs of collection or any
- 26 amount that may be levied for the payment of the principal and
- 27 interest on school bonds or notes shall be excluded from the
- 28 limitation of fifty-five (55) mills provided for in subsection (2)
- 29 of this section. In the case of a school district in
- 30 conservatorship, the levying authority may approve or disapprove,
- 31 in full or in part, the request for the ad valorem tax effort. If
- 32 any member of such levying authority is an employee of the school
- 33 district, that person shall recuse himself or herself from voting
- 34 on the question of the request for ad valorem tax effort.
- 35 (2) (a) Except as otherwise provided under paragraph (b) or
- 36 (c) of this subsection, if the millage rate necessary to generate
- 37 funds equal to the dollar amount requested by the school board is
- 38 greater than fifty-five (55) mills, and if this millage rate is
- 39 higher than the millage then being levied pursuant to the school
- 40 board's order requesting the ad valorem tax effort for the
- 41 currently existing fiscal year, then the levying authority shall
- 42 call a referendum on the question of exceeding, during the next
- 43 fiscal year, the then existing millage rate being levied for
- 44 school district purposes. The referendum shall be scheduled for
- 45 not more than six (6) weeks after the date on which the levying

46 authority receives the school board's order requesting the ad 47 valorem tax effort.

When a referendum has been called, notice of the referendum 48 shall be published at least five (5) days per week, unless the 49 50 only newspaper published in the school district is published less 51 than five (5) days per week, for at least three (3) consecutive 52 weeks, in at least one (1) newspaper published in the school 53 district. The notice shall be no less than one-fourth (1/4) page 54 in size, and the type used shall be no smaller than eighteen (18) 55 point and surrounded by a one-fourth-inch solid black border. 56 notice may not be placed in that portion of the newspaper where 57 legal notices and classified advertisements appear. The first publication of the notice shall be made not less than twenty-one 58 59 (21) days before the date fixed for the referendum, and the last 60 publication shall be made not more than seven (7) days before that 61 date. If no newspaper is published in the school district, then 62 the notice shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the school district. The referendum shall be held, 63 64 as far as is practicable, in the same manner as other referendums 65 and elections are held in the county or municipality. At the 66 referendum, all registered, qualified electors of the school district may vote. The ballots used at the referendum shall have 67 68 printed thereon a brief statement of the amount and purpose of the 69 increased tax levy and the words "FOR INCREASING THE MILLAGE 70 LEVIED FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES FROM (MILLAGE RATE CURRENTLY

- 71 LEVIED) MILLS TO (MILLAGE RATE REQUIRED UNDER SCHOOL BOARD'S
- 72 ORDER) MILLS," and "AGAINST INCREASING THE MILLAGE LEVIED FOR
- 73 SCHOOL DISTRICT PURPOSES FROM (MILLAGE RATE CURRENTLY LEVIED)
- 74 MILLS TO (MILLAGE RATE REQUIRED UNDER SCHOOL BOARD'S ORDER)
- 75 MILLS." The voter shall vote by placing a cross (X) or checkmark
- 76 $(\sqrt{})$ opposite his choice on the proposition.
- 77 If a majority of the registered, qualified electors of the
- 78 school district who vote in the referendum vote in favor of the
- 79 question, then the ad valorem tax effort in dollars requested by
- 80 the school board shall be approved. However, if a majority of the
- 81 registered, qualified electors who vote in the referendum vote
- 82 against the question, the millage rate levied by the levying
- 83 authority shall not exceed the millage then being levied pursuant
- 84 to the school board's order requesting the ad valorem tax effort
- 85 for the then currently existing fiscal year.
- Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require any
- 87 school district that is levying more than fifty-five (55) mills
- 88 pursuant to Sections 37-57-1 and 37-57-105 to decrease its millage
- 89 rate to fifty-five (55) mills or less. Further, nothing in this
- 90 subsection shall be construed to require a referendum in a school
- 91 district where the requested ad valorem tax effort in dollars
- 92 requires a millage rate of greater than fifty-five (55) mills but
- 93 the requested dollar amount does not require any increase in the
- 94 then existing millage rate. Further, nothing in this subsection
- 95 shall be construed to require a referendum in a school district

- 96 where, because of a decrease in the assessed valuation of the
- 97 district, a millage rate of greater than fifty-five (55) mills is
- 98 necessary to generate funds equal to the dollar amount generated
- 99 by the ad valorem tax effort for the currently existing fiscal
- 100 year.
- 101 (b) Provided, however, that if a levying authority is
- 102 levying in excess of fifty-five (55) mills on July 1, 1997, the
- 103 levying authority may levy an additional amount not exceeding
- 104 three (3) mills in the aggregate for the period beginning July 1,
- 105 1997, and ending June 30, 2003, subject to the limitation on
- 106 increased receipts from ad valorem taxes prescribed in Sections
- 107 37-57-105 and 37-57-107.
- 108 (c) If the levying authority for any school district
- 109 lawfully has decreased the millage levied for school district
- 110 purposes, but subsequently determines that there is a need to
- 111 increase the millage rate due to a disaster in which the Governor
- 112 has declared a disaster emergency or the President of the United
- 113 States has declared an emergency or major disaster, then the
- 114 levying authority may increase the millage levied for school
- 115 district purposes up to an amount that does not exceed the millage
- 116 rate in any one (1) of the immediately preceding ten (10) fiscal
- 117 years without any referendum that otherwise would be required
- 118 under this subsection.
- 119 (3) (a) If the millage rate necessary to generate funds
- 120 equal to the dollar amount requested by the school board is equal

121	to fifty-five (55) mills or less, but the dollar amount requested
122	by the school board exceeds the next preceding fiscal year's ad
123	valorem tax effort in dollars by more than four percent (4%), but
124	not more than seven percent (7%) (as provided for under subsection
125	(4) of this section), then the school board shall publish notice
126	thereof at least five (5) days per week, unless the only newspaper
127	published in the school district is published less than five (5)
128	days per week, for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a
129	newspaper published in the school district. The notice shall be
130	no less than one-fourth $(1/4)$ page in size, and the type used
131	shall be no smaller than eighteen (18) point and surrounded by a
132	one-fourth-inch solid black border. The notice may not be placed
133	in that portion of the newspaper where legal notices and
134	classified advertisements appear. The first publication shall be
135	made not less than fifteen (15) days before the final adoption of
136	the budget by the school board. If no newspaper is published in
137	the school district, then the notice shall be published in a
138	newspaper having a general circulation in the school district. If
139	at any time before the adoption of the budget a petition signed by
140	not less than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen hundred (1500),
141	whichever is less, of the registered, qualified electors of the
142	school district is filed with the school board requesting that a
143	referendum be called on the question of exceeding the next
144	preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars by more
145	than four percent (4%), then the school board shall adopt, not

146	later than the next regular meeting, a resolution calling a
147	referendum to be held within the school district upon the
148	question. The referendum shall be called and held, and notice
149	thereof shall be given, in the same manner provided for in
150	subsection (2) of this section. The ballot shall contain the
151	language "FOR THE SCHOOL TAX INCREASE OVER FOUR PERCENT (4%)" and
152	"AGAINST THE SCHOOL TAX INCREASE OVER FOUR PERCENT (4%)." If a
153	majority of the registered, qualified electors of the school
154	district who vote in the referendum vote in favor of the question,
155	then the increase requested by the school board shall be approved.
156	For the purposes of this subsection, the revenue sources excluded
157	from the increase limitation under Section 37-57-107 also shall be
158	excluded from the limitation described in this subsection in the
159	same manner as they are excluded under Section 37-57-107.
160	Provided, however, that any increases requested by the school
161	board as a result of the required local contribution to the
162	Mississippi Adequate Education Program, as certified to the local
163	school district by the State Board of Education under Section
164	37-151-7(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall not be subject to the
165	four percent (4%) and/or seven percent (7%) tax increase
166	limitations provided in this section.
167	(b) In addition to the provisions of paragraph (a) of
168	this subsection (3), in the case of a school district in
169	conservatorship, if the millage rate necessary to generate funds

equal to the dollar amount requested is equal to fifty-five (55)

	171	mills	or	less,	but	the	dollar	amount	requested	exceeds	the	next
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- preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars by not 172
- more than four percent (4%), the levying authority may approve or 173
- disapprove, in full or in part, the request for the ad valorem tax 174
- 175 effort. If any member of the levying authority is an employee of
- 176 the school district, such person shall recuse himself or herself
- from voting on the question of the request for ad valorem tax 177
- 178 effort.

- 179 If the millage rate necessary to generate funds equal to
- the dollar amount requested by the school board is equal to 180
- 181 fifty-five (55) mills or less, but the dollar amount requested by
- 182 the school board exceeds the seven percent (7%) increase
- limitation provided for in Section 37-57-107, the school board may 183
- 184 exceed the seven percent (7%) increase limitation only after the
- school board has determined the need for additional revenues and 185
- three-fifths (3/5) of the registered, qualified electors voting in 186
- 187 a referendum called by the levying authority have voted in favor
- of the increase. The notice and manner of holding the referendum 188
- 189 shall be as prescribed in subsection (2) of this section for a
- 190 referendum on the question of increasing the millage rate in
- 191 school districts levying more than fifty-five (55) mills for
- 192 school district purposes.
- 193 The aggregate receipts from ad valorem taxes levied for
- 194 school district purposes pursuant to Sections 37-57-1 and
- 37-57-105, excluding collection fees, additional revenue from the 195

- 196 ad valorem tax on any newly constructed properties or any existing
- 197 properties added to the tax rolls or any properties previously
- 198 exempt which were not assessed in the next preceding year, and
- 199 amounts received by school districts from the School Ad Valorem
- 200 Tax Reduction Fund pursuant to Section 37-61-35, shall be subject
- 201 to the increase limitation under this section and Section
- 202 37-57-107.
- 203 (6) The school board shall pay to the levying authority all
- 204 costs that are incurred by the levying authority in the calling
- 205 and holding of any election under this section.
- 206 (7) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to
- 207 affect in any manner the authority of school boards to levy
- 208 millage for the following purposes:
- 209 (a) The issuance of bonds, notes and certificates of
- 210 indebtedness, as authorized in Sections 37-59-1 through 37-59-45
- 211 and Sections 37-59-101 through 37-59-115;
- 212 (b) The lease of property for school purposes, as
- 213 authorized under the Emergency School Leasing Authority Act of
- 214 1986 (Sections 37-7-351 through 37-7-359);
- 215 (c) The lease or lease-purchase of school buildings, as
- 216 authorized under Section 37-7-301;
- 217 (d) The issuance of promissory notes in the event of a
- 218 shortfall of ad valorem taxes and/or revenue from local sources,
- 219 as authorized under Section 27-39-333; and



220	(e) The construction of school buildings outside the
221	school district, as authorized under Section 37-7-401.
222	Any millage levied for the purposes specified in this

- 223 subsection shall be excluded from the millage limitations
- 224 established under this section.
- SECTION 2. Section 37-57-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:
- 227 37-57-105. (1) In addition to the taxes levied under
- 228 Section 37-57-1, the levying authority for the school district, as
- 229 defined in Section 37-57-1, upon receipt of a certified copy of an
- 230 order adopted by the school board of the school district
- 231 requesting an ad valorem tax effort in dollars for the support of
- 232 the school district, shall, at the same time and in the same
- 233 manner as other ad valorem taxes are levied, levy an annual ad
- 234 valorem tax in the amount fixed in such order upon all of the
- 235 taxable property of such school district, which shall not be less
- 236 than the millage rate certified by the State Board of Education as
- 237 the uniform minimum school district ad valorem tax levy for the
- 238 support of the adequate education program in such school district
- 239 under Section 37-57-1. Provided, however, that any school
- 240 district levying less than the uniform minimum school district ad
- 241 valorem tax levy on July 1, 1997, shall only be required to
- 242 increase its local district maintenance levy in four (4) mill
- 243 annual increments in order to attain such millage requirements.
- 244 In making such levy, the levying authority shall levy an

245	additional amount sufficient to cover anticipated delinquencies
246	and costs of collection so that the net amount of money to be
247	produced by such levy shall be equal to the amount which is
248	requested by said school board. The proceeds of such tax levy,
249	excluding levies for the payment of the principal of and interest
250	on school bonds or notes and excluding levies for costs of
251	collection, shall be placed in the school depository to the credit
252	of the school district and shall be expended in the manner
253	provided by law for the purpose of supplementing teachers'
254	salaries, extending school terms, purchasing furniture, supplies
255	and materials, and for all other lawful operating and incidental
256	expenses of such school district, funds for which are not provided
257	by adequate education program fund allotments.
258	The monies authorized to be received by school districts from
259	the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund pursuant to Section
260	37-61-35 shall be included as ad valorem tax receipts. The
261	levying authority for the school district, as defined in Section
262	37-57-1, shall reduce the ad valorem tax levy for such school
263	district in an amount equal to the amount distributed to such
264	school district from the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund each
265	calendar year pursuant to said Section 37-61-35. Such reduction
266	shall not be less than the millage rate necessary to generate a
267	reduction in ad valorem tax receipts equal to the funds
268	distributed to such school district from the School Ad Valorem Tax
269	Reduction Fund pursuant to Section 37-61-35. Such reduction shall

270 not be deemed to be a reduction in the aggregate amount of support
271 from ad valorem taxation for purposes of Section 37-19-11. The
272 millage levy certified by the State Board of Education as the
273 uniform minimum ad valorem tax levy or the millage levy that would
274 generate funds in an amount equal to a school district's district
275 entitlement, as defined in Section 37-22-1(2)(e), shall be subject
276 to the provisions of this paragraph.

In any county where there is located a nuclear generating power plant on which a tax is assessed under Section 27-35-309(3), such required levy and revenue produced thereby may be reduced by the levying authority in an amount in proportion to a reduction in the base revenue of any such county from the previous year. reduction shall be allowed only if the reduction in base revenue equals or exceeds five percent (5%). "Base revenue" shall mean the revenue received by the county from the ad valorem tax levy plus the revenue received by the county from the tax assessed under Section 27-35-309(3) and authorized to be used for any purposes for which a county is authorized by law to levy an ad valorem tax. For purposes of determining if the reduction equals or exceeds five percent (5%), a levy of millage equal to the prior year's millage shall be hypothetically applied to the current year's ad valorem tax base to determine the amount of revenue to be generated from the ad valorem tax levy. For the purposes of this section and Section 37-57-107, the portion of the base revenue used for the support of any school district shall be

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- deemed to be the aggregate receipts from ad valorem taxes for the support of any school district. This paragraph shall apply to taxes levied for the 1987 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter. If the Mississippi Supreme Court or another court finally adjudicates that the tax levied under Section 27-35-309(3) is unconstitutional, then this paragraph shall stand repealed.
 - district located in two (2) or more counties, the order of the school board requesting the levying of such tax shall be certified to the levying authority of each of the counties involved, and each of the levying authorities shall levy the tax in the manner specified herein. The taxes so levied shall be collected by the tax collector of the levying authority involved and remitted by the tax collector to the school depository of the home county to the credit of the school district involved as provided above, except that taxes for collection fees may be retained by the levying authority for deposit into its general fund.
 - (3) The aggregate receipts from ad valorem taxes levied for school district purposes, excluding collection fees, pursuant to this section and Section 37-57-1 shall be subject to the increased limitation under Section 37-57-107; however, if the ad valorem tax effort in dollars requested by the school district for the fiscal year exceeds the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars by more than four percent (4%) but not more than seven percent (7%), then the school board shall publish notice

320	thereof once each week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in
321	a newspaper having general circulation in the school district
322	involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less
323	than fifteen (15) days prior to the final adoption of the budget
324	by the school board. If at any time prior to said adoption a
325	petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen
326	hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of
327	the school district involved shall be filed with the school board
328	requesting that an election be called on the question of exceeding
329	the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars
330	by more than four percent (4%) but not more than seven percent
331	(7%), then the school board shall, not later than the next regular
332	meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be held within
333	such school district upon such question. The election shall be
334	called and held, and notice thereof shall be given, in the same
335	manner for elections upon the questions of the issuance of the
336	bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be
337	certified to the school board. The ballot shall contain the
338	language "For the School Tax Increase Over Four Percent (4%)" and
339	"Against the School Tax Increase Over Four Percent (4%)." If a
340	majority of the qualified electors of the school district who
341	voted in such election shall vote in favor of the question, then
342	the stated increase requested by the school board shall be
343	approved. For the purposes of this paragraph, the revenue sources
344	excluded from the increased limitation under Section 37-57-107

345	shall also be excluded from the limitation described herein in the
346	same manner as they are excluded under Section 37-57-107. $\underline{\text{In}}$
347	addition, in the case of a school district in conservatorship, if
348	the ad valorem tax effort in dollars requested for the fiscal year
349	exceeds the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in
350	dollars by not more than four percent (4%), the levying authority
351	may approve or disapprove, in full or in part, the request for the
352	ad valorem tax effort. If any member of such levying authority is
353	an employee of the school district, that person shall recuse
354	himself or herself from voting on the question of the request for
355	ad valorem tax effort.
356	SECTION 3. Section 37-57-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
357	brought forward as follows:
358	37-57-107. (1) Beginning with the tax levy for the 1997
359	fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter, the aggregate
360	receipts from taxes levied for school district purposes pursuant
361	to Sections 37-57-105 and 37-57-1 shall not exceed the aggregate
362	receipts from those sources during any one (1) of the immediately
363	preceding three (3) fiscal years, as determined by the school
364	board, plus an increase not to exceed seven percent (7%). For the
365	purpose of this limitation, the term "aggregate receipts" when
366	used in connection with the amount of funds generated in a
367	preceding fiscal year shall not include excess receipts required

by law to be deposited into a special account. However, the term

"aggregate receipts" includes any receipts required by law to be

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370	paid to a charter school. The additional revenue from the ad
371	valorem tax on any newly constructed properties or any existing
372	properties added to the tax rolls or any properties previously
373	exempt which were not assessed in the next preceding year may be
374	excluded from the seven percent (7%) increase limitation set forth
375	herein. Taxes levied for payment of principal of and interest on
376	general obligation school bonds issued heretofore or hereafter
377	shall be excluded from the seven percent (7%) increase limitation
378	set forth herein. Any additional millage levied to fund any new
379	program mandated by the Legislature shall be excluded from the
380	limitation for the first year of the levy and included within such
381	limitation in any year thereafter. For the purposes of this
382	section, the term "new program" shall include, but shall not be
383	limited to, (a) the Early Childhood Education Program required to
384	commence with the 1986-1987 school year as provided by Section
385	37-21-7 and any additional millage levied and the revenue
386	generated therefrom, which is excluded from the limitation for the
387	first year of the levy, to support the mandated Early Childhood
388	Education Program shall be specified on the minutes of the school
389	board and of the governing body making such tax levy; (b) any
390	additional millage levied and the revenue generated therefrom
391	which shall be excluded from the limitation for the first year of
392	the levy, for the purpose of generating additional local
393	contribution funds required for the adequate education program for
394	the 2003 fiscal year and for each fiscal year thereafter under

- Section 37-151-7(2); and (c) any additional millage levied and the revenue generated therefrom which shall be excluded from the limitation for the first year of the levy, for the purpose of support and maintenance of any agricultural high school which has been transferred to the control, operation and maintenance of the school board by the board of trustees of the community college district under provisions of Section 37-29-272.
- 402 The seven percent (7%) increase limitation prescribed in 403 this section may be increased an additional amount only when the 404 school board has determined the need for additional revenues and 405 has held an election on the question of raising the limitation 406 prescribed in this section. The limitation may be increased only if three-fifths (3/5) of those voting in the election shall vote 407 408 for the proposed increase. The resolution, notice and manner of holding the election shall be as prescribed by law for the holding 409 410 of elections for the issuance of bonds by the respective school 411 boards. Revenues collected for the fiscal year in excess of the 412 seven percent (7%) increase limitation pursuant to an election 413 shall be included in the tax base for the purpose of determining 414 aggregate receipts for which the seven percent (7%) increase 415 limitation applies for subsequent fiscal years.
- 416 (3) Except as otherwise provided for excess revenues
 417 generated pursuant to an election, if revenues collected as the
 418 result of the taxes levied for the fiscal year pursuant to this
 419 section and Section 37-57-1 exceed the increase limitation, then

420 it shall be the mandatory duty of the school board of the school

421 district to deposit such excess receipts over and above the

422 increase limitation into a special account and credit it to the

423 fund for which the levy was made. It will be the further duty of

424 such board to hold said funds and invest the same as authorized by

425 law. Such excess funds shall be calculated in the budgets for the

426 school districts for the purpose for which such levies were made,

427 for the succeeding fiscal year. Taxes imposed for the succeeding

428 year shall be reduced by the amount of excess funds available.

429 Under no circumstances shall such excess funds be expended during

430 the fiscal year in which such excess funds are collected.

431 (4) For the purposes of determining ad valorem tax receipts

432 for a preceding fiscal year under this section, the term "fiscal

433 year" means the fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending

434 September 30.

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435 (5) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each school

district in which a charter school is located shall pay to the

437 charter school an amount for each student enrolled in the charter

438 school equal to the ad valorem taxes levied per pupil for the

439 support of the school district in which the charter school is

440 located. The pro rata ad valorem taxes to be transferred to the

441 charter school must include all levies for the support of the

442 school district under Sections 37-57-1 (local contribution to the

443 adequate education program) and 37-57-105 (school district

444 operational levy) but may not include any taxes levied for the

445	retirement of school district bonded indebtedness or short-term
446	notes or any taxes levied for the support of vocational-technical
447	education programs. Payments made pursuant to this subsection by
448	a school district to a charter school must be made before the
449	expiration of three (3) business days after the funds are
450	distributed to the school district.
451	SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from

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and after July 1, 2022.