

By: Representatives McCarty, McLean,
Summers, Hulum

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 730

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-36, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE PROVISIONS OF THE "WILLIAM F. WINTER AND JACK REED, SR.,
3 TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING
4 INDIVIDUALS PURSUING AN ALTERNATE ROUTE LICENSURE PATHWAY TO
5 BECOME ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM;
6 TO REMOVE THE CAP ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE
7 ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM IN ANY FISCAL YEAR; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 37-106-36. (1) There is established the "William F. Winter
13 and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program."

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

16 (a) Graduated from a baccalaureate degree-granting
17 institution of higher learning which is regionally accredited by
18 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a
19 comparable accreditation body;

20 (b) Signed a contract as a full-time * * * teacher in a
21 public school district in Mississippi;



22 (c) Obtained a standard five-year license or
23 nontraditional five-year alternate route license. Persons with
24 provisional emergency licenses shall not be eligible applicants;
25 and

26 (d) Outstanding qualifying undergraduate or graduate
27 educational loans, which may include the principal, interest and
28 related expenses such as the required interest premium on the
29 unpaid balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the
30 recipient for undergraduate or graduate educational expense.

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

36 (4) Provided that initial recipients remain eligible under
37 the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, they may retain
38 eligibility for two (2) additional awards, subject to the
39 availability of funds.

40 (* * * 5) Initial recipients shall be selected on a
41 first-come, first-served basis of all eligible applicants, * * *
42 subject to the availability of funds. In the second and * * *
43 third years of an applicant's continued eligibility, priority
44 consideration shall first be given to renewal applicants. * * *
45 The Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
46 shall develop rules for ensuring that expenses of the program in a



47 fiscal year do not exceed funding for the program in that fiscal
48 year. For that purpose, and any other provisions of this section
49 to the contrary notwithstanding, the Mississippi Postsecondary
50 Education Financial Assistance Board may limit the acceptance of
51 applications and may limit the number of awards.

52 (* * *6) Among * * * teacher recipients, priority
53 consideration shall be given to persons who are teaching in a
54 public school district designated as a geographical critical
55 teacher shortage area by the State Board of Education.

56 (* * *7) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract
57 to teach in a public school district that is not designated as a
58 geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

59 (a) One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for
60 the * * * initial award;

61 (b) Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for
62 the second * * * award; and

63 (c) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for
64 the third * * * award.

65 (* * *8) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract
66 to teach in a public school district that is designated as a
67 geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

68 (a) Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the * * *
69 initial award;

70 (b) Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the
71 second * * * award, provided the recipient continues to teach in



72 the same public school district or another public school district
73 designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of
74 Education; and

75 (c) Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the
76 third * * * award, provided the recipient continues to teach in
77 the same public school district or another public school district
78 designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of
79 Education.

80 (* * * 9) * * * An initial recipient who moves to another
81 public school district shall be eligible to receive an award based
82 on the amount allowed under the program in the new district where
83 the teacher is employed.

84 (* * * 10) Awards shall be granted on a year-to-year basis,
85 and recipients shall have no obligation to seek a future award.

86 (* * * 11) Awards shall be paid annually, after the
87 expiration of the one-year teaching contract for which the award
88 was granted, to the recipient's lender or loan service provider,
89 and shall be applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid on
90 the recipient's behalf toward qualifying undergraduate or graduate
91 educational loans prior to receiving payment of the award shall
92 not be eligible for repayment through the program.

93 (* * * 12) During the teaching year for which the award is
94 granted, a recipient must at all times keep the * * * Mississippi
95 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board informed of any



96 changes to the recipient's current contact information and
97 employment status.

98 (* * *13) Recipients who fail to maintain a standard or
99 nontraditional license or fail to fulfill the one-year teaching
100 contract on which the award was based shall forfeit any right to
101 the award.

102 (* * *14) The * * * Mississippi Postsecondary Education
103 Financial Assistance Board, in collaboration with the State Board
104 of Education, shall track recipients of an award under this
105 program through their * * * fourth year after receiving their
106 initial award, unless the recipient shall leave teaching in a
107 public school district at an earlier date. Data collected shall
108 include recipients' undergraduate or graduate institution, school
109 district, subject area/grade level in teaching and any other
110 pertinent information necessary to determine the efficacy of the
111 program in retaining teachers * * *.

112 (* * *15) The * * * Mississippi Postsecondary Education
113 Financial Assistance Board shall promulgate regulations necessary
114 for the proper administration of this section, including rules for
115 ensuring that expenses of the program in a fiscal year do not
116 exceed funding for the program in that fiscal year.

117 (* * *16) There is established in the State Treasury a
118 special fund to be designated the "William F. Winter and Jack
119 Reed, Sr., Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be
120 deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any



121 other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of
122 implementing the loan repayment program established herein. Money
123 in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the
124 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into
125 the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

126 * * *

127 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
128 and after July 1, 2023.

