

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1321

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ASSESS THE STUDENT PERFORMANCE OF
 3 ALL ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS USING THE GENERAL EDUCATIONAL
 4 DEVELOPMENT OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY TEST PROGRAM; TO PROHIBIT
 5 STUDENTS DETERMINED BY THE ASSESSMENT TO BE PERFORMING BELOW GRADE
 6 LEVEL FROM EXERCISING ANY SENIOR PRIVILEGE OF EARLY RELEASE FROM
 7 SCHOOL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 10 amended as follows:

11 37-16-5. (1) The school board of every district in this
 12 state shall periodically assess student performance and
 13 achievement in each school. Such assessment programs shall be
 14 based upon local goals and objectives which are compatible with
 15 the state's plan for education and which supplement the minimum
 16 performance standards approved by the State Board of Education.
 17 Data from district assessment programs shall be provided to the
 18 State Department of Education when such data is required in order
 19 to evaluate specific instructional programs or processes or when
 20 the data is needed for other research or evaluation projects.



21 Each district may provide acceptable, compatible district
22 assessment data to substitute for any assessment data needed at
23 the state level when the State Department of Education certifies
24 that such data is acceptable for the purposes of Section 37-16-3.

25 (2) The school board of every school district shall assess
26 the performance of each student in eleventh grade through the
27 administration of the general educational development or High
28 School Equivalency Diploma Testing Program, as used by the
29 Mississippi Community College Board for adult basic education.
30 The assessment must be administered before the conclusion of the
31 year in which a student is enrolled in eleventh grade. A student
32 whose performance on the assessment demonstrates that the student
33 is performing below grade level may not exercise any privilege
34 that may be granted by the school district to seniors in that
35 district for early release during regular school hours upon
36 completion of all academic classes required for the day.

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

