

By: Senator(s) Kirby

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2560

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIRES STUDENTS TO COMPLETE A
 3 MISSISSIPPI HISTORY COURSE TO GRADUATE THEN IT SHALL DEVELOP A
 4 PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED INTO THE DISTRICT FROM A
 5 DISTRICT THAT DID NOT REQUIRE SUCH COURSE; TO REQUIRE ALTERNATIVE
 6 OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE THE COURSE FOR FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES AND
 7 JUNIORS; TO REQUIRE DISTRICTS TO INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE COURSES THAT
 8 MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE MISSISSIPPI HISTORY COURSE FOR PURPOSE
 9 OF GRADUATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 12 amended as follows:

13 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
 14 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
 15 minimum:

16 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
 17 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
 18 Education.

19 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
 20 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
 21 school board.



22 (c) By school, information on high school graduation
23 rates. High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty
24 percent (80%) must submit a detailed plan to the Mississippi
25 Department of Education to restructure the high school experience
26 to improve graduation rates.

27 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
28 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
29 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

30 (3) The State Board of Education may establish student
31 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
32 graduation.

33 (4) If a school district requires students to complete a
34 Mississippi History course to graduate then the district shall
35 develop a procedure for students who transferred into the district
36 from a district that did not require such course. For freshmen,
37 sophomores and juniors who transfer into such a district, the
38 school district shall notify the student of an alternative
39 opportunity to take the Mississippi History course, including, but
40 not limited to, an online class or in-person summer school class.
41 Such districts shall include alternative courses that may be
42 substituted for the Mississippi History course for purposes of
43 graduation for seniors who transfer into such a district.

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

