

By: Representative Shanks

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 766

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-36, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE WILLIAM F. WINTER AND
3 JACK REED, SR., TEACHER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM AND TO REVISE
4 INCORRECT AGENCY NOMENCLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 37-106-36. (1) There is established the "William F. Winter
9 and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program."

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

12 (a) Graduated from a baccalaureate degree-granting
13 institution of higher learning which is regionally accredited by
14 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) or a
15 comparable accreditation body;

16 (b) Signed a contract as a full-time first-year teacher
17 in a public school district in Mississippi;

18 (c) Obtained a standard five-year license. Persons
19 with emergency licenses shall not be eligible applicants; and



20 (d) Outstanding qualifying undergraduate educational
21 loans, which may include the principal, interest and related
22 expenses such as the required interest premium on the unpaid
23 balances of government and commercial loans obtained by the
24 recipient for undergraduate educational expense.

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

30 (4) Initial recipients shall be selected on a first-come,
31 first-served basis of all eligible applicants, which shall be
32 limited to only one hundred fifty (150) individuals receiving
33 scholarship funds. In the second and subsequent years of an
34 applicant's continued eligibility, priority consideration shall
35 first be given to renewal applicants. In any given year only one
36 hundred fifty (150) new applicants shall be eligible to receive
37 funds under the program.

38 (5) Among first-time, first-year teacher recipients,
39 priority consideration shall be given to persons who are teaching
40 in a public school district designated as a geographical critical
41 teacher shortage area by the State Board of Education.

42 (6) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to
43 teach in a public school district that is not designated as a
44 geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:



45 (a) One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for
46 the first year of teaching;

47 (b) Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for
48 the second year of teaching; and

49 (c) Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00) for
50 the third year of teaching.

51 (7) Awards for recipients who have signed a contract to
52 teach in a public school district that is designated as a
53 geographical critical teacher shortage area shall be as follows:

54 (a) Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) for the first
55 year of teaching;

56 (b) Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the second
57 year of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the
58 same public school district or another public school district
59 designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of
60 Education; and

61 (c) Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for the third year
62 of teaching, provided the recipient continues to teach in the same
63 public school district or another public school district
64 designated a geographical shortage area by the State Board of
65 Education.

66 (8) A first-year recipient who moves to another public
67 school district shall be eligible to receive an award based on the
68 amount allowed under the program in the new district where the
69 teacher is employed.



70 (9) Awards shall be granted on a year-to-year basis, and
71 recipients shall have no obligation to seek a future award.

72 (10) Awards shall be paid annually, after the expiration of
73 the one-year teaching contract for which the award was granted, to
74 the recipient's lender or loan service provider, and shall be
75 applied to the outstanding balance. Monies paid on the
76 recipient's behalf toward qualifying undergraduate educational
77 loans prior to receiving payment of the award shall not be
78 eligible for repayment through the program.

79 (11) During the teaching year for which the award is
80 granted, a recipient must at all times keep the * * *
81 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board informed of any
82 changes to the recipient's current contact information and
83 employment status.

84 (12) Recipients who fail to maintain a standard license or
85 fail to fulfill the one-year teaching contract on which the award
86 was based shall forfeit any right to the award.

87 (13) The * * * Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance
88 Board, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, shall
89 track recipients of an award under this program through their
90 fifth teaching year, unless the recipient shall leave teaching in
91 a public school district at an earlier date. Data collected shall
92 include recipients' undergraduate institution, school district,
93 subject area/grade level in teaching and any other pertinent



94 information necessary to determine the efficacy of the program in
95 retaining teachers in their first three (3) years of teaching.

96 (14) The * * * Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance
97 Board shall promulgate regulations necessary for the proper
98 administration of this section.

99 (15) There is established in the State Treasury a special
100 fund to be designated the "William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr.,
101 Loan Repayment Program Fund," into which shall be deposited those
102 funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that
103 may be made available, for the purpose of implementing the loan
104 repayment program established * * * in this section. Money in the
105 fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the
106 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into
107 the fund shall be credited to the special fund.

108 (16) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, * * *
109 2027.

110 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after July 1, 2024.

