

By: Representatives McCarty, McLean

To: Education;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1672

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, 2024.

