

By: Representative Crawford

To: Housing; Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 787

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-159-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI
3 EMPLOYER-ASSISTED HOUSING TEACHER PROGRAM BE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE
4 A HOME AND RESIDE IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
5 EMPLOYMENT IS LOCATED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-159-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-159-11. (1) There is established the Mississippi
10 Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program, which shall be a
11 special home loan program for eligible licensed teachers who
12 render service to the state in a geographical area of the state
13 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
14 by the State Board of Education. The home loan program shall be
15 administered by the State Department of Education. The department
16 may contract with one or more public or private entities to
17 provide assistance in implementing and administering the program.
18 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations
19 regarding the implementation and administration of the program.



20 (2) Participation in the loan program shall be available to
21 any licensed teacher who renders service in a geographical area of
22 the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as
23 designated by the State Board of Education. * * * The maximum
24 amount of a loan that may be made under the program to any person
25 shall be Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00).

26 (3) Any loan made under the program to a person who actually
27 renders service as a teacher in a geographical area of the state
28 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
29 by the State Board of Education, shall be converted to an
30 interest-free grant on the basis of one (1) year's service for
31 one-third (1/3) of the amount of the loan. Any person who does
32 not render three (3) years' service as a teacher in a geographical
33 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
34 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be
35 liable to the State Department of Education for one-third (1/3) of
36 the amount of the loan for each year that he does not render such
37 service, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate
38 at the time the person discontinues his service. If a claim for
39 repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands of an
40 attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an
41 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

42 (4) All funds received by the State Department of Education
43 as repayment of loans by program participants shall be deposited
44 in the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.



45 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
46 and after July 1, 2025.

