

By: Representative McCarty

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1144

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR LICENSURE,  
3 TO COINCIDE WITH COLLEGIATE EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS; TO  
4 REVISE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO EDUCATOR PREPARATION  
5 PROGRAMS BY REMOVING THE MINIMUM 21 ACT SCORE OR SAT EQUIVALENT,  
6 PRAXIS PASSING SCORE AND 3.0 GPA REQUIREMENT NECESSARY PRIOR TO  
7 ADMISSION INTO AN APPROVED EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM FOR  
8 TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL TEACHING ROUTES TO RECEIVE A  
9 STANDARD LICENSE; TO REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS IN THE TEACH MISSISSIPPI  
10 INSTITUTE TO COMPLETE TWO SEMESTER, SIX-HOUR INTERNSHIPS, AND AN  
11 ALLOWANCE OF A MAXIMUM OF 15 CREDIT HOURS FOR RECEIPT OF A  
12 PROVISIONAL TEACHING LICENSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 37-3-2. (1) There is established within the State  
17 Department of Education the Commission on Teacher and  
18 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and  
19 Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the commission  
20 to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding  
21 standards for the certification and licensure and continuing  
22 professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an  
23 educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.



24           (2)   (a)   The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15)  
25   qualified members.   The membership of the commission shall be  
26   composed of the following members to be appointed, three (3) from  
27   each of the four (4) congressional districts, as such districts  
28   existed on January 1, 2011, in accordance with the population  
29   calculations determined by the 2010 federal decennial census,  
30   including:   four (4) classroom teachers; three (3) school  
31   administrators; one (1) representative of schools of education of  
32   public institutions of higher learning located within the state to  
33   be recommended by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
34   Higher Learning; one (1) representative from the schools of  
35   education of independent institutions of higher learning to be  
36   recommended by the Board of the Mississippi Association of  
37   Independent Colleges; one (1) representative from public community  
38   and junior colleges located within the state to be recommended by  
39   the Mississippi Community College Board; one (1) local school  
40   board member; and four (4) laypersons.   Three (3) members of the  
41   commission, at the sole discretion of the State Board of  
42   Education, shall be appointed from the state at large.

43           (b)   All appointments shall be made by the State Board  
44   of Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of  
45   Public Education.   The first appointments by the State Board of  
46   Education shall be made as follows:   five (5) members shall be  
47   appointed for a term of one (1) year; five (5) members shall be  
48   appointed for a term of two (2) years; and five (5) members shall



be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years.

(3) The State Board of Education when making appointments shall designate a chairman. The commission shall meet at least once every two (2) months or more often if needed. Members of the commission shall be compensated at a rate of per diem as authorized by Section 25-3-69 and be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses as authorized by Section 25-3-41.

(4) (a) An appropriate staff member of the State Department of Education shall be designated and assigned by the State Superintendent of Public Education to serve as executive secretary and coordinator for the commission. No less than two (2) other appropriate staff members of the State Department of Education shall be designated and assigned by the State Superintendent of Public Education to serve on the staff of the commission.

(b) An Office of Educator Misconduct Evaluations shall be established within the State Department of Education to assist the commission in responding to infractions and violations, and in conducting hearings and enforcing the provisions of subsections (11), (12), (13), (14) and (15) of this section, and violations of the Mississippi Educator Code of Ethics.

(5) It shall be the duty of the commission to:

(a) Set standards and criteria, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, for all educator preparation programs in the state;



74 (b) Recommend to the State Board of Education each year  
75 approval or disapproval of each educator preparation program in  
76 the state, subject to a process and schedule determined by the  
77 State Board of Education;

78 (c) Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
79 Board of Education, standards for initial teacher certification  
80 and licensure in all fields;

81 (d) Establish, subject to the approval of the State  
82 Board of Education, standards for the renewal of teacher licenses  
83 in all fields;

84 (e) Review and evaluate objective measures of teacher  
85 performance, such as test scores, which may form part of the  
86 licensure process, and to make recommendations for their use;

87 (f) Review all existing requirements for certification  
88 and licensure;

89 (g) Consult with groups whose work may be affected by  
90 the commission's decisions;

91 (h) Prepare reports from time to time on current  
92 practices and issues in the general area of teacher education and  
93 certification and licensure;

94 (i) Hold hearings concerning standards for teachers'  
95 and administrators' education and certification and licensure with  
96 approval of the State Board of Education;

97 (j) Hire expert consultants with approval of the State  
98 Board of Education;



(k) Set up ad hoc committees to advise on specific areas;

(l) Perform such other functions as may fall within their general charge and which may be delegated to them by the State Board of Education; and

(m) Establish standards, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, for supplemental endorsements, provided that the standards allow teachers as many options as possible to receive a supplemental endorsement, including, but not limited to, the option of taking additional coursework or earning at least the minimum qualifying score or higher on the required licensure subject assessment relevant to the endorsement area for which the licensure is sought. The subject assessment option shall not apply to certain subject areas, including, but not limited to, Early/Primary Education PreK-3, Elementary Education, or Special Education, except by special approval by the State Board of Education.

(6) (a) **Standard License - Approved Program Route.** An educator entering the school system of Mississippi for the first time and meeting all requirements as established by the State Board of Education shall be granted a standard five-year license. Persons who possess two (2) years of classroom experience as an assistant teacher or who have taught for one (1) year in an accredited public or private school shall be allowed to fulfill student teaching requirements under the supervision of a qualified



participating teacher approved by an accredited \* \* \* educator  
preparation provider. The local school district in which the

assistant teacher is employed shall compensate such assistant  
teachers at the required salary level during the period of time  
such individual is completing student teaching requirements.

Applicants for a standard license shall submit to the department:

(i) An application on a department form;

(ii) An official transcript of completion of

\* \* \* an educator preparation program approved by the department  
or a nationally accredited program, subject to the following:

Licensure to teach in Mississippi prekindergarten through  
kindergarten classrooms shall require completion of \* \* \* an  
educator preparation program or a Bachelor of Science degree with  
child development emphasis from a preparation program \* \* \* in  
accordance with the standards set forth by the American

Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) or by the  
National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or by  
the \* \* \* national accreditor(s) for educator preparation  
providers. Licensure to teach in Mississippi kindergarten, for

those applicants who have completed \* \* \* an educator preparation  
program, and in Grade 1 through Grade 4 shall require the  
completion of an interdisciplinary program of studies. Licenses  
for Grades 4 through 8 shall require the completion of an  
interdisciplinary program of studies with two (2) or more areas of  
concentration. Licensure to teach in Mississippi Grades 7 through



12 shall require a major in an academic field other than education, or a combination of disciplines other than education. Students preparing to teach a subject shall complete a major in the respective subject discipline. All applicants for standard licensure shall demonstrate that such person's college preparation in those fields was in accordance with the standards set forth by the \* \* \* national accreditor(s) for educator preparation providers recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) or, for those applicants who have a Bachelor of Science degree with child development emphasis, the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). Effective July 1, 2016, for initial elementary education licensure, a teacher candidate must earn a passing score on a rigorous test of scientifically research-based reading instruction and intervention and data-based decision-making principles as approved by the State Board of Education; and

\* \* \*

( \* \* \*iii) From and after July 1, \* \* \*2025, no teacher candidate shall be licensed to teach in Mississippi who did not meet the \* \* \* criteria \* \* \* established by the State Board of Education.

\* \* \*



(b) (i) **Standard License - Nontraditional Teaching Route.** From and after July 1, \* \* \* 2025, no teacher candidate shall be licensed to teach in Mississippi under the alternate route who did not meet the \* \* \* criteria \* \* \* established by the State Board of Education.

\* \* \*

(ii) Beginning July 1, \* \* \* 2025, an individual who \* \* \* meets the requirements of this paragraph (b) may apply for admission to the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) program to teach students in Grades 7 through 12 \* \* \*. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring that \* \* \* educator preparation \* \* \* providers (EPPs) which provide the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) program for the preparation of nontraditional teachers shall meet the standards and comply with the provisions of this paragraph.

1. The Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI) shall include \* \* \* nine-semester-hour summer program or a curriculum of study in which the student matriculates in the fall or spring semester, which shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in education, \* \* \* instruction in teaching strategies for students with disabilities, classroom management, state curriculum requirements, planning and instruction, instructional methods and pedagogy, using test results to improve instruction, and a \* \* \* two (2) semester \* \* \* six-hour supervised internship to be completed while the teacher is employed as a full-time





teacher intern in a local school district. \* \* \* TMI \* \* \*  
courses \* \* \* may be offered at \* \* \* any educator preparation  
program (EPP) with a State Board of Education approved TMI  
program.

2. The school sponsoring the teacher intern  
shall enter into a written agreement with the \* \* \* educator  
preparation program (EPP) providing the Teach Mississippi  
Institute (TMI) program, under terms and conditions as agreed upon  
by the contracting parties, providing that the school district  
shall provide teacher interns seeking a nontraditional provisional  
teaching license with a one-year classroom teaching experience.  
The teacher intern shall successfully complete the \* \* \* two (2)  
semester \* \* \* six-hour intensive internship in the school  
district \* \* \* one-year classroom teaching experience.

3. Upon completion of the nine-semester-hour  
TMI or the fall or spring semester option, the individual shall  
submit his transcript to the commission for provisional licensure  
of the intern teacher, and the intern teacher shall be issued a  
provisional teaching license by the commission, which will allow  
the individual to legally serve as a teacher while the person  
completes a nontraditional \* \* \* educator preparation internship  
program.

4. During the semester of internship in the  
school district, the \* \* \* educator preparation program (EPP) and  
school district shall monitor the performance of the intern



teacher. The school district that employs the provisional teacher shall supervise the provisional teacher during the teacher's intern year of employment under a nontraditional provisional license, and shall, in consultation with the teacher intern's mentor at the school district of employment, submit to the commission a comprehensive evaluation of the teacher's performance sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the nontraditional provisional license. If the comprehensive evaluation establishes that the provisional teacher intern's performance fails to meet the standards of the approved nontraditional \* \* \* educator preparation internship program, the individual shall not be approved for a standard license.

5. An individual issued a provisional teaching license under this nontraditional route shall successfully complete, at a minimum, a one-year beginning teacher mentoring and induction program administered by the employing school district with the assistance of the State Department of Education.

6. Upon successful completion of the TMI and the internship provisional license period, applicants for a Standard License - Nontraditional Route shall submit to the commission a transcript of successful completion of the \* \* \* fifteen (15) semester hours required in the internship program, and the employing school district shall submit to the commission a recommendation for standard licensure of the intern. If the



248 school district recommends licensure, the applicant shall be  
249 issued a Standard License - Nontraditional Route which shall be  
250 valid for a five-year period and be renewable.

251 7. At the discretion of the \* \* \* educator  
252 preparation program (EPP), the individual shall be allowed to  
253 credit the \* \* \* fifteen (15) semester hours earned in the  
254 nontraditional teacher internship program toward the graduate  
255 hours required for a Master of Arts in Teacher (MAT) Degree.

256 8. The local school district in which the  
257 nontraditional teacher intern or provisional licensee is employed  
258 shall compensate such teacher interns at Step 1 of the required  
259 salary level during the period of time such individual is  
260 completing teacher internship requirements and shall compensate  
261 such Standard License - Nontraditional Route teachers at Step 3 of  
262 the required salary level when they complete license requirements.

263 (iii) Implementation of the TMI program provided  
264 for under this paragraph (b) shall be contingent upon the  
265 availability of funds appropriated specifically for such purpose  
266 by the Legislature. Such implementation of the TMI program may  
267 not be deemed to prohibit the State Board of Education from  
268 developing and implementing additional alternative route teacher  
269 licensure programs, as deemed appropriate by the board. The  
270 emergency certification program in effect prior to July 1, 2002,  
271 shall remain in effect.



(iv) A Standard License - Approved Program Route shall be issued for a five-year period, and may be renewed. Recognizing teaching as a profession, a hiring preference shall be granted to persons holding a Standard License - Approved Program Route or Standard License - Nontraditional Teaching Route over persons holding any other license.

(c) **Special License - Expert Citizen.** In order to allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses, the State Department of Education, in accordance with rules and regulations established by the State Board of Education, may grant a five-year expert citizen-teacher license to local business or other professional personnel to teach in a public school or nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state. Such person shall be required to have a high school diploma, an industry-recognized certification related to the subject area in which they are teaching and a minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience but shall not be required to hold an associate or bachelor's degree, provided that he or she possesses the minimum qualifications required for his or her profession, and may begin teaching upon his employment by the local school board and licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education. If a school board hires a career technical education pathway instructor who does not have an industry certification in his or her area of expertise but does have the required experience, the school board shall spread their decision on the minutes at their next meeting



and provide a detailed explanation for why they hired the instructor. Such instructor shall present the minutes of the school board to the State Department of Education when he or she applies for an expert citizen license. The board shall adopt rules and regulations to administer the expert citizen-teacher license. A Special License - Expert Citizen may be renewed in accordance with the established rules and regulations of the State Department of Education.

(d) **Special License - Nonrenewable.** The State Board of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations to allow those educators not meeting requirements in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this subsection (6) to be licensed for a period of not more than three (3) years, except by special approval of the State Board of Education.

(e) **Nonlicensed Teaching Personnel.** A nonlicensed person may teach for a maximum of three (3) periods per teaching day in a public school district or a nonpublic school accredited/approved by the state. Such person shall submit to the department a transcript or record of his education and experience which substantiates his preparation for the subject to be taught and shall meet other qualifications specified by the commission and approved by the State Board of Education. In no case shall any local school board hire nonlicensed personnel as authorized under this paragraph in excess of five percent (5%) of the total number of licensed personnel in any single school.



(f) **Special License - Transitional Bilingual Education.**

Beginning July 1, 2003, the commission shall grant special licenses to teachers of transitional bilingual education who possess such qualifications as are prescribed in this section. Teachers of transitional bilingual education shall be compensated by local school boards at not less than one (1) step on the regular salary schedule applicable to permanent teachers licensed under this section. The commission shall grant special licenses to teachers of transitional bilingual education who present the commission with satisfactory evidence that they (i) possess a speaking and reading ability in a language, other than English, in which bilingual education is offered and communicative skills in English; (ii) are in good health and sound moral character; (iii) possess a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree in teacher education from an accredited institution of higher education; (iv) meet such requirements as to courses of study, semester hours therein, experience and training as may be required by the commission; and (v) are legally present in the United States and possess legal authorization for employment. A teacher of transitional bilingual education serving under a special license shall be under an exemption from standard licensure if he achieves the requisite qualifications therefor. Two (2) years of service by a teacher of transitional bilingual education under such an exemption shall be credited to the teacher in acquiring a Standard Educator License. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to



prohibit a local school board from employing a teacher licensed in an appropriate field as approved by the State Department of Education to teach in a program in transitional bilingual education.

(g) In the event any school district meets the highest accreditation standards as defined by the State Board of Education in the accountability system, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may exempt such school district from any restrictions in paragraph (e) relating to the employment of nonlicensed teaching personnel.

\* \* \*

(7) **Administrator License.** The State Board of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations and to administer the licensure process of the school administrators in the State of Mississippi. There will be four (4) categories of administrator licensure with exceptions only through special approval of the State Board of Education.

(a) **Administrator License - Nonpracticing.** Those educators holding administrative endorsement but having no administrative experience or not serving in an administrative position on January 15, 1997.

(b) **Administrator License - Entry Level.** Those educators holding administrative endorsement and having met the department's qualifications to be eligible for employment in a



Mississippi school district. Administrator License - Entry Level shall be issued for a five-year period and shall be nonrenewable.

(c) **Standard Administrator License - Career Level.** An administrator who has met all the requirements of the department for standard administrator licensure.

(d) **Administrator License - Nontraditional Route.** The board may establish a nontraditional route for licensing administrative personnel. Such nontraditional route for administrative licensure shall be available for persons holding, but not limited to, a master of business administration degree, a master of public administration degree, a master of public planning and policy degree or a doctor of jurisprudence degree from an accredited college or university, with five (5) years of administrative or supervisory experience. Successful completion of the requirements of alternate route licensure for administrators shall qualify the person for a standard administrator license.

Individuals seeking school administrator licensure under paragraph (b), (c) or (d) shall successfully complete a training program and an assessment process prescribed by the State Board of Education. All applicants for school administrator licensure shall meet all requirements prescribed by the department under paragraph (b), (c) or (d), and the cost of the assessment process required shall be paid by the applicant.





395           (8) **Reciprocity.** The department shall grant a standard  
396 five-year license to any individual who possesses a valid standard  
397 license from another state, or another country or political  
398 subdivision thereof, within a period of twenty-one (21) days from  
399 the date of a completed application. The issuance of a license by  
400 reciprocity to a military-trained applicant, military spouse or  
401 person who establishes residence in this state shall be subject to  
402 the provisions of Section 73-50-1 or 73-50-2, as applicable.

403           (9) **Renewal and Reinstatement of Licenses.** The State Board  
404 of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for  
405 the renewal and reinstatement of educator and administrator  
406 licenses. Effective May 15, 1997, the valid standard license held  
407 by an educator shall be extended five (5) years beyond the  
408 expiration date of the license in order to afford the educator  
409 adequate time to fulfill new renewal requirements established  
410 pursuant to this subsection. An educator completing a master of  
411 education, educational specialist or doctor of education degree in  
412 May 1997 for the purpose of upgrading the educator's license to a  
413 higher class shall be given this extension of five (5) years plus  
414 five (5) additional years for completion of a higher degree. For  
415 all license types with a current valid expiration date of June 30,  
416 2021, the State Department of Education shall grant a one-year  
417 extension to June 30, 2022. Beginning July 1, 2022, and  
418 thereafter, applicants for licensure renewal shall meet all



requirements in effect on the date that the complete application is received by the State Department of Education.

(10) All controversies involving the issuance, revocation, suspension or any change whatsoever in the licensure of an educator required to hold a license shall be initially heard in a hearing de novo, by the commission or by a subcommittee established by the commission and composed of commission members, or by a hearing officer retained and appointed by the commission, for the purpose of holding hearings. Any complaint seeking the denial of issuance, revocation or suspension of a license shall be by sworn affidavit filed with the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development. The decision thereon by the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer, shall be final, unless the aggrieved party shall appeal to the State Board of Education, within ten (10) days, of the decision of the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer. An appeal to the State Board of Education shall be perfected upon filing a notice of the appeal and by the prepayment of the costs of the preparation of the record of proceedings by the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer. An appeal shall be on the record previously made before the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer, unless otherwise provided by rules and regulations adopted by the board. The decision of the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer shall not be disturbed on appeal if supported by



substantial evidence, was not arbitrary or capricious, within the authority of the commission, and did not violate some statutory or constitutional right. The State Board of Education in its authority may reverse, or remand with instructions, the decision of the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer. The decision of the State Board of Education shall be final.

(11) (a) The State Board of Education, acting through the commission, may deny an application for any teacher or administrator license for one or more of the following:

(i) Lack of qualifications which are prescribed by law or regulations adopted by the State Board of Education;

(ii) The applicant has a physical, emotional or mental disability that renders the applicant unfit to perform the duties authorized by the license, as certified by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist;

(iii) The applicant is actively addicted to or actively dependent on alcohol or other habit-forming drugs or is a habitual user of narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens or other drugs having similar effect, at the time of application for a license;

(iv) Fraud or deceit committed by the applicant in securing or attempting to secure such certification and license;

(v) Failing or refusing to furnish reasonable evidence of identification;



468                   (vi) The applicant has been convicted, has pled  
469 guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as  
470 defined by federal or state law. For purposes of this  
471 subparagraph (vi) of this paragraph (a), a "guilty plea" includes  
472 a plea of guilty, entry of a plea of nolo contendere, or entry of  
473 an order granting pretrial or judicial diversion;

474                   (vii) The applicant or licensee is on probation or  
475 post-release supervision for a felony or conviction, as defined by  
476 federal or state law. However, this disqualification expires upon  
477 the end of the probationary or post-release supervision period.

478                   (b) The State Board of Education, acting through the  
479 commission, shall deny an application for any teacher or  
480 administrator license, or immediately revoke the current teacher  
481 or administrator license, for one or more of the following:

482                   (i) If the applicant or licensee has been  
483 convicted, has pled guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to  
484 a sex offense as defined by federal or state law. For purposes of  
485 this subparagraph (i) of this paragraph (b), a "guilty plea"  
486 includes a plea of guilty, entry of a plea of nolo contendere, or  
487 entry of an order granting pretrial or judicial diversion;

488                   (ii) The applicant or licensee is on probation or  
489 post-release supervision for a sex offense conviction, as defined  
490 by federal or state law;



(iii) The license holder has fondled a student as described in Section 97-5-23, or had any type of sexual involvement with a student as described in Section 97-3-95; or

(iv) The license holder has failed to report sexual involvement of a school employee with a student as required by Section 97-5-24.

(12) The State Board of Education, acting through the commission, may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew any teacher or administrator license for specified periods of time or may place on probation, reprimand a licensee, or take other disciplinary action with regard to any license issued under this chapter for one or more of the following:

(a) Breach of contract or abandonment of employment may result in the suspension of the license for one (1) school year as provided in Section 37-9-57;

(b) Obtaining a license by fraudulent means shall result in immediate suspension and continued suspension for one (1) year after correction is made;

(c) Suspension or revocation of a certificate or license by another state shall result in immediate suspension or revocation and shall continue until records in the prior state have been cleared;

(d) The license holder has been convicted, has pled guilty or entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as defined by federal or state law. For purposes of this paragraph,



a "guilty plea" includes a plea of guilty, entry of a plea of nolo contendere, or entry of an order granting pretrial or judicial diversion;

(e) The license holder knowingly and willfully committing any of the acts affecting validity of mandatory uniform test results as provided in Section 37-16-4(1);

(f) The license holder has engaged in unethical conduct relating to an educator/student relationship as identified by the State Board of Education in its rules;

(g) The license holder served as superintendent or principal in a school district during the time preceding and/or that resulted in the Governor declaring a state of emergency and the State Board of Education appointing a conservator;

(h) The license holder submitted a false certification to the State Department of Education that a statewide test was administered in strict accordance with the Requirements of the Mississippi Statewide Assessment System; or

(i) The license holder has failed to comply with the Procedures for Reporting Infractions as promulgated by the commission and approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (15) of this section.

For purposes of this subsection, probation shall be defined as a length of time determined by the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer, and based on the severity of the offense in which the license holder shall meet certain requirements as



541 prescribed by the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer.  
542 Failure to complete the requirements in the time specified shall  
543 result in immediate suspension of the license for one (1) year.

544 (13) (a) Dismissal or suspension of a licensed employee by  
545 a local school board pursuant to Section 37-9-59 may result in the  
546 suspension or revocation of a license for a length of time which  
547 shall be determined by the commission and based upon the severity  
548 of the offense.

549 (b) Any offense committed or attempted in any other  
550 state shall result in the same penalty as if committed or  
551 attempted in this state.

552 (c) A person may voluntarily surrender a license. The  
553 surrender of such license may result in the commission  
554 recommending any of the above penalties without the necessity of a  
555 hearing. However, any such license which has voluntarily been  
556 surrendered by a licensed employee may only be reinstated by a  
557 majority vote of all members of the commission present at the  
558 meeting called for such purpose.

559 (14) (a) A person whose license has been suspended or  
560 surrendered on any grounds except criminal grounds may petition  
561 for reinstatement of the license after one (1) year from the date  
562 of suspension or surrender, or after one-half (1/2) of the  
563 suspended or surrendered time has lapsed, whichever is greater. A  
564 person whose license has been suspended or revoked on any grounds  
565 or violations under subsection (12) of this section may be



reinstated automatically or approved for a reinstatement hearing, upon submission of a written request to the commission. A license suspended, revoked or surrendered on criminal grounds may be reinstated upon petition to the commission filed after expiration of the sentence and parole or probationary period imposed upon conviction. A revoked, suspended or surrendered license may be reinstated upon satisfactory showing of evidence of rehabilitation. The commission shall require all who petition for reinstatement to furnish evidence satisfactory to the commission of good character, good mental, emotional and physical health and such other evidence as the commission may deem necessary to establish the petitioner's rehabilitation and fitness to perform the duties authorized by the license.

(b) A person whose license expires while under investigation by the Office of Educator Misconduct for an alleged violation may not be reinstated without a hearing before the commission if required based on the results of the investigation.

(15) Reporting procedures and hearing procedures for dealing with infractions under this section shall be promulgated by the commission, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education. The revocation or suspension of a license shall be effected at the time indicated on the notice of suspension or revocation. The commission shall immediately notify the superintendent of the school district or school board where the teacher or administrator is employed of any disciplinary action





591 and also notify the teacher or administrator of such revocation or  
592 suspension and shall maintain records of action taken. The State  
593 Board of Education may reverse or remand with instructions any  
594 decision of the commission, its subcommittee or hearing officer  
595 regarding a petition for reinstatement of a license, and any such  
596 decision of the State Board of Education shall be final.

597 (16) An appeal from the action of the State Board of  
598 Education in denying an application, revoking or suspending a  
599 license or otherwise disciplining any person under the provisions  
600 of this section shall be filed in the Chancery Court of the First  
601 Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, on the record  
602 made, including a verbatim transcript of the testimony at the  
603 hearing. The appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days after  
604 notification of the action of the board is mailed or served and  
605 the proceedings in chancery court shall be conducted as other  
606 matters coming before the court. The appeal shall be perfected  
607 upon filing notice of the appeal and by the prepayment of all  
608 costs, including the cost of preparation of the record of the  
609 proceedings by the State Board of Education, and the filing of a  
610 bond in the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) conditioned that  
611 if the action of the board be affirmed by the chancery court, the  
612 applicant or license holder shall pay the costs of the appeal and  
613 the action of the chancery court.

614 (17) All such programs, rules, regulations, standards and  
615 criteria recommended or authorized by the commission shall become



effective upon approval by the State Board of Education as designated by appropriate orders entered upon the minutes thereof.

(18) The granting of a license shall not be deemed a property right nor a guarantee of employment in any public school district. A license is a privilege indicating minimal eligibility for teaching in the public school districts of Mississippi. This section shall in no way alter or abridge the authority of local school districts to require greater qualifications or standards of performance as a prerequisite of initial or continued employment in such districts.

(19) In addition to the reasons specified in subsections (12) and (13) of this section, the board shall be authorized to suspend the license of any licensee for being out of compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a license for being out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. Actions taken by the board in suspending a license when required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 are not actions from which an appeal may be taken under this section. Any appeal of a license suspension that is required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 shall be taken in accordance with the appeal procedure specified in Section



641 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than the  
642 procedure specified in this section. If there is any conflict  
643 between any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any  
644 provision of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or  
645 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

646 (20) The Department of Education shall grant and renew all  
647 licenses and certifications of teachers and administrators within  
648 twenty-one (21) days from the date of a completed application if  
649 the applicant has otherwise met all established requirements for  
650 the license or certification.

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

