

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1623

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-19-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND
3 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY
4 A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE PAID
5 AN ANNUAL SALARY SUPPLEMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-19-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-19-7. (1) Teachers' salaries in each public school
10 district shall be determined and paid in accordance with the scale
11 for teachers' salaries as provided in this subsection. For
12 teachers holding the following types of licenses or the equivalent
13 as determined by the State Board of Education, and the following
14 number of years of teaching experience, the scale shall be as
15 follows:

16 **2022-2023 AND SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL YEARS MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE**

17	Exp.	AAAA	AAA	AA	A
18	0	45,500.00	44,000.00	43,000.00	41,500.00
19	1	46,100.00	44,550.00	43,525.00	41,900.00



20	2	46,700.00	45,100.00	44,050.00	42,300.00
21	3	47,300.00	45,650.00	44,575.00	42,700.00
22	4	47,900.00	46,200.00	45,100.00	43,100.00
23	5	49,250.00	47,500.00	46,350.00	44,300.00
24	6	49,850.00	48,050.00	46,875.00	44,700.00
25	7	50,450.00	48,600.00	47,400.00	45,100.00
26	8	51,050.00	49,150.00	47,925.00	45,500.00
27	9	51,650.00	49,700.00	48,450.00	45,900.00
28	10	53,000.00	51,000.00	49,700.00	47,100.00
29	11	53,600.00	51,550.00	50,225.00	47,500.00
30	12	54,200.00	52,100.00	50,750.00	47,900.00
31	13	54,800.00	52,650.00	51,275.00	48,300.00
32	14	55,400.00	53,200.00	51,800.00	48,700.00
33	15	56,750.00	54,500.00	53,050.00	49,900.00
34	16	57,350.00	55,050.00	53,575.00	50,300.00
35	17	57,950.00	55,600.00	54,100.00	50,700.00
36	18	58,550.00	56,150.00	54,625.00	51,100.00
37	19	59,150.00	56,700.00	55,150.00	51,500.00
38	20	60,500.00	58,000.00	56,400.00	52,700.00
39	21	61,100.00	58,550.00	56,925.00	53,100.00
40	22	61,700.00	59,100.00	57,450.00	53,500.00
41	23	62,300.00	59,650.00	57,975.00	53,900.00
42	24	62,900.00	60,200.00	58,500.00	54,300.00
43	25	65,400.00	62,700.00	61,000.00	56,800.00
44	26	66,000.00	63,250.00	61,525.00	57,200.00



45	27	66,600.00	63,800.00	62,050.00	57,600.00
46	28	67,200.00	64,350.00	62,575.00	58,000.00
47	29	67,800.00	64,900.00	63,100.00	58,400.00
48	30	68,400.00	65,450.00	63,625.00	58,800.00
49	31	69,000.00	66,000.00	64,150.00	59,200.00
50	32	69,600.00	66,550.00	64,675.00	59,600.00
51	33	70,200.00	67,100.00	65,200.00	60,000.00
52	34	70,800.00	67,650.00	65,725.00	60,400.00
53	35				
54	& above	71,400.00	68,200.00	66,250.00	60,800.00
55	* * *				

56 The school district, with assistance from the Department of
 57 Education, shall consider the teacher's years of service and
 58 license type and determine the corresponding salary for * * * a
 59 retired teacher. After determining the retired teacher's
 60 corresponding salary, the school district may allocate up to one
 61 hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the amount provided under
 62 the salary schedule for such teacher, as applicable, as salary and
 63 assessment under the program.

64 After determining * * * a retired teacher's salary, the
 65 school district may pay no more than fifty percent (50%) of the
 66 retired teacher's compensation as salary to the retired teacher.
 67 The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the retired teacher's
 68 compensation as salary shall be paid by the school district to
 69 PERS as a pension liability participation assessment.



70 It is the intent of the Legislature that any state funds made
71 available for salaries of licensed personnel in excess of the
72 funds paid for such salaries for the 1986-1987 school year shall
73 be paid to licensed personnel pursuant to a personnel appraisal
74 and compensation system implemented by the State Board of
75 Education. The State Board of Education shall have the authority
76 to adopt and amend rules and regulations as are necessary to
77 establish, administer and maintain the system.

78 All teachers employed on a full-time basis shall be paid a
79 minimum salary in accordance with the above scale. However, no
80 school district shall receive any funds under this section for any
81 school year during which the local supplement paid to any
82 individual teacher shall have been reduced to a sum less than that
83 paid to that individual teacher for performing the same duties
84 from local supplement during the immediately preceding school
85 year. The amount actually spent for the purposes of group health
86 and/or life insurance shall be considered as a part of the
87 aggregate amount of local supplement but shall not be considered a
88 part of the amount of individual local supplement.

89 The level of professional training of each teacher to be used
90 in establishing the salary for the teacher for each year shall be
91 determined by the type of valid teacher's license issued to that
92 teacher on or before October 1 of the current school year.
93 However, school districts are authorized, in their discretion, to
94 negotiate the salary levels applicable to licensed employees who



are receiving retirement benefits from the retirement system of another state.

(2) (a) The following employees shall receive an annual salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

(i) Any licensed teacher or retired teacher employed by a school district under the authority of Section 25-11-126 who has met the requirements and acquired a Master Teacher certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as a teacher and not as an administrator. Such teacher shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the certificate was received prior to October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the teacher shall submit such documentation to the State Department of Education prior to February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(ii) A licensed nurse who has met the requirements and acquired a certificate from the National Board for Certification of School Nurses, Inc., and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as a school nurse and not as an administrator. The licensed school nurse shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education



that the certificate was received before October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed school nurse shall submit the documentation to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(iii) Any licensed school counselor who has met the requirements and acquired a National Certified School Counselor (NCSC) endorsement from the National Board of Certified Counselors and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as a counselor and not as an administrator. Such licensed school counselor shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the endorsement was received prior to October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed school counselor shall submit such documentation to the State Department of Education prior to February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year. However, any school counselor who started the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards process for school counselors between June 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004, and completes the requirements and acquires the Master Teacher certificate shall be entitled to the master teacher supplement, and those counselors who complete the process shall be entitled to a one-time



reimbursement for the actual cost of the process as outlined in paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(iv) Any licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist who has met the requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and any certified academic language therapist (CALT) who has met the certification requirements of the Academic Language Therapy Association and who is employed by a local school board. The licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist and certified academic language therapist shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the certificate or endorsement was received before October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed speech-language pathologist and audiologist and certified academic language therapist shall submit the documentation to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(v) Any licensed athletic trainer who has met the requirements and acquired Board Certification for the Athletic Trainer from the Board of Certification, Inc., and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as an athletic trainer and not as an administrator. The licensed athletic trainer shall submit documentation to the State



Department of Education that the certificate was received before October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed athletic trainer shall submit the documentation to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(vi) An occupational therapist who has met the requirements and acquired initial certification as an Occupational Therapist Registered from the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc., and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as an occupational therapist and not an administrator. The certified occupational therapist shall submit documentation to the State Department of Education that the certification was received before October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the occupational therapist shall submit the documentation to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(vii) A licensed school psychologist who has met the requirements and acquired certification as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and who is employed by a local school board or the State Board of Education as a school psychologist. The licensed school psychologist shall submit



documentation to the State Department of Education that the certification was received before October 15 in order to be eligible for the full salary supplement in the current school year, or the licensed school psychologist shall submit the documentation to the State Department of Education before February 15 in order to be eligible for a prorated salary supplement beginning with the second term of the school year.

(b) An employee shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of completing each component of acquiring the certificate or endorsement, excluding any costs incurred for postgraduate courses, not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each component, not to exceed four (4) components, for a teacher, school counselor * * *, speech-language pathologist and audiologist, occupational therapist or school psychologist, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement. A local school district or any private individual or entity may pay the cost of completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for any employee of the school district described under paragraph (a), and the State Department of Education shall reimburse the school district for such cost, regardless of whether or not the process resulted in the award of the certificate or endorsement. If a private individual or entity has paid the cost of completing the process of acquiring the certificate or endorsement for an employee, the local school district may agree to directly



reimburse the individual or entity for such cost on behalf of the employee.

(c) All salary supplements, fringe benefits and process reimbursement authorized under this subsection shall be paid directly by the State Department of Education to the local school district and shall be in addition to its allotments from the total funding formula provided in Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215 and not a part thereof in accordance with regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education. Local school districts shall not reduce the local supplement paid to any employee receiving such salary supplement, and the employee shall receive any local supplement to which employees with similar training and experience otherwise are entitled. However, an educational employee shall receive the salary supplement in the amount of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for only one (1) of the qualifying certifications authorized under paragraph (a) of this subsection. No school district shall provide more than one (1) annual salary supplement under the provisions of this subsection to any one (1) individual employee holding multiple qualifying national certifications.

(d) If an employee for whom such cost has been paid, in full or in part, by a local school district or private individual or entity fails to complete the certification or endorsement process, the employee shall be liable to the school district or individual or entity for all amounts paid by the school district



or individual or entity on behalf of that employee toward his or her certificate or endorsement.

(3) The following employees shall receive an annual salary supplement in the amount of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00), plus fringe benefits, in addition to any other compensation to which the employee may be entitled:

Effective July 1, 2016, if funds are available for that purpose, any licensed teacher or retired teacher employed by a local school district under the authority of Section 25-11-126 who has met the requirements and acquired a Master Teacher Certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who is employed in a public school district located in one (1) of the following counties: Claiborne, Adams, Jefferson, Wilkinson, Amite, Bolivar, Coahoma, Leflore, Quitman, Sharkey, Issaquena, Sunflower, Washington, Holmes, Yazoo * * * or Tallahatchie. The salary supplement awarded under the provisions of this subsection (3) shall be in addition to the salary supplement awarded under the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

Teachers who meet the qualifications for a salary supplement under this subsection (3) who are assigned for less than one (1) full year or less than full time for the school year shall receive the salary supplement in a prorated manner, with the portion of the teacher's assignment to the critical geographic area to be determined as of June 15 of the school year.



(4) (a) This subsection shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi Performance-Based Pay (MPBP)" plan. In addition to the minimum base pay described in this section, only if funds are available for that purpose, the State of Mississippi may provide monies from state funds to school districts for the purposes of rewarding licensed teachers, administrators and nonlicensed personnel at individual schools showing improvement in student test scores. The MPBP plan shall be developed by the State Department of Education based on the following criteria:

(i) It is the express intent of this legislation that the MPBP plan shall utilize only existing standards of accreditation and assessment as established by the State Board of Education.

(ii) To ensure that all of Mississippi's teachers, administrators and nonlicensed personnel at all schools have equal access to the monies set aside in this section, the MPBP program shall be designed to calculate each school's performance as determined by the school's increase in scores from the prior school year. The MPBP program shall be based on a standardized scores rating where all levels of schools can be judged in a statistically fair and reasonable way upon implementation. At the end of each year, after all student achievement scores have been standardized, the State Department of Education shall implement the MPBP plan.



(iii) To ensure all teachers cooperate in the spirit of teamwork, individual schools shall submit a plan to the local school district to be approved before the beginning of each school year. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, how all teachers, regardless of subject area, and administrators will be responsible for improving student achievement for their individual school.

(b) The State Board of Education shall develop the processes and procedures for designating schools eligible to participate in the MPBP. State assessment results, growth in student achievement at individual schools and other measures deemed appropriate in designating successful student achievement shall be used in establishing MPBP criteria.

(5) (a) If funds are available for that purpose, each school in Mississippi shall have mentor teachers, as defined by Sections 37-9-201 through 37-9-213, who shall receive additional base compensation provided for by the State Legislature in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per each beginning teacher that is being mentored. The additional state compensation shall be limited to those mentor teachers that provide mentoring services to beginning teachers. For the purposes of such funding, a beginning teacher shall be defined as any teacher in any school in Mississippi that has less than one (1) year of classroom experience teaching in a public school. For the purposes of such



317 funding, no full-time academic teacher shall mentor more than two
318 (2) beginning teachers.

319 (b) To be eligible for this state funding, the
320 individual school must have a classroom management program
321 approved by the local school board.

322 (6) Effective with the 2014-2015 school year, the school
323 districts participating in the Pilot Performance-Based
324 Compensation System pursuant to Section 37-19-9 may award
325 additional teacher and administrator pay based thereon.

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

