

By: Senator(s) Barrett

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2169

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-151-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT EACH SCHOOL BUS DRIVER SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL
3 SALARY SUPPLEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-151-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-151-85. (1) Using those funds appropriated by the
9 Legislature for transportation purposes, the amount to be allotted
10 by the State Board of Education for transportation shall be
11 determined as follows:

12 The State Department of Education shall calculate the cost of
13 transportation in school districts by ascertaining the average
14 cost per pupil in net enrollment of transported pupils in school
15 districts classified in different density groups, as determined by
16 the State Department of Education. Based on these calculations,
17 the State Department of Education shall develop a scale for
18 determining the allowable cost per pupil in different density
19 groups, which scale shall provide greatest allowance per pupil



20 transported in school districts with lowest densities and smallest
21 allowance per pupil in school districts with highest densities.
22 The total allowance under this section for transported children
23 for any school district for the current year shall be the net
24 enrollment of the transported children for months two (2) and
25 three (3) of the prior year, multiplied by the allowance per
26 transported pupil as provided herein. However, the State
27 Department of Education is authorized and empowered to make proper
28 adjustments in allotments, under rules and regulations of the
29 State Board of Education, in cases where major changes in the
30 number of children in net enrollment transported occur from one
31 (1) year to another as a result of changes or alterations in the
32 boundaries of school districts, a change in or relocation of
33 attendance centers, or for other reasons which would result in
34 major decrease or increase in the number of children in net
35 enrollment transported during the current school year as compared
36 with the preceding year. Moreover, the State Board of Education
37 is hereby authorized and empowered to make such payments to all
38 districts and/or university-based programs as deemed necessary in
39 connection with transporting exceptional children as defined in
40 Section 37-23-3. The State Board of Education shall establish and
41 implement all necessary rules and regulations to allot
42 transportation payments to university-based programs. In
43 developing density classifications under the provisions hereof,
44 the State Department of Education may give consideration to the



length of the route, the sparsity of the population, the lack of adequate roads, highways and bridges, and the presence of large streams or other geographic obstacles. In addition to funds allotted under the above provisions, funds shall be allotted to each school district that transports students from their assigned school or attendance center to classes in an approved vocational-technical center at a rate per mile not to exceed the average statewide cost per mile of school bus transportation during the preceding year exclusive of bus replacement. All such transportation must have prior approval by the State Department of Education.

(2) The net enrollment of transported children shall be reported by the school district in which such children attend school. If children living in a school district are transported at the expense of such school district to another school district, the net enrollment of such transported children shall be deducted by the State Department of Education from the aggregate net enrollment of transported children in the school district in which they attend school and shall be added to the aggregate net enrollment of transported children of the school district from which they come for the purpose of calculating transportation allotments. However, such deduction shall not be made for the purpose of calculating total funding formula funding.

(3) The State Department of Education shall include in the allowance for transportation for each school district an amount



70 for the replacement of school buses or the purchase of new buses,
71 which amount shall be calculated upon the estimated useful life of
72 all school buses being used for the transportation of children in
73 such school district, whether such buses be publicly or privately
74 owned.

75 (4) The school boards of all districts operating school bus
76 transportation are authorized and directed to establish a salary
77 schedule for school bus drivers. No school district shall be
78 entitled to receive the funds herein allotted for transportation
79 unless it pays each of its nonstudent adult school bus drivers
80 paid from such transportation allotments a minimum of One Hundred
81 Ninety Dollars (\$190.00) per month. In addition, local school
82 boards may compensate school bus drivers, to include temporary or
83 substitute bus drivers, for actual expenses incurred when
84 acquiring an initial commercial license or any renewal of a
85 commercial license in order to drive a school bus. In addition,
86 local school boards may compensate school bus drivers, to include
87 temporary or substitute bus drivers, for expenses, not to exceed
88 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), when acquiring an initial medical
89 exam or any renewal of a medical exam, in order to qualify for a
90 commercial driver's license. Each school bus driver shall receive
91 an annual salary supplement in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars
92 (\$5,000.00).

93 (5) The State Board of Education shall be authorized and
94 empowered to use such part of the funds appropriated for



transportation as may be necessary to finance driver training courses as provided for in Section 37-41-1.

(6) The State Board of Education, acting through the Department of Education, may compensate school bus drivers, to include temporary or substitute bus drivers, who are providing driving services to the various state operated schools, such as the Mississippi School for the Deaf, the Mississippi School for the Blind, the Mississippi School of the Arts, the Mississippi School for Math and Science and any other similar state operated schools, for actual expenses incurred when acquiring an initial commercial license or any renewal of a commercial license in order to drive a school bus, to include the expense, not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), of acquiring an initial medical exam or any renewal of a medical exam in order to qualify for a commercial driver's license.

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

