

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2176

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-17-6 AND 37-17-13, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT, DURING THE SCHOOL BOARD'S FIRST
3 YEAR FULLY ADMINISTERING A SCHOOL DISTRICT AFTER A DECLARATION OF
4 A STATE OF EMERGENCY IS LIFTED OR THE SCHOOL BOARD IS
5 RECONSTITUTED, THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE
6 ALONGSIDE BOTH THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S NEWLY
7 APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT IN AN ADVISORY AND OVERSIGHT CAPACITY AND
8 SHALL MAKE PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 37-17-6. (1) The State Board of Education, acting through
14 the Commission on School Accreditation, shall establish and
15 implement a permanent performance-based accreditation system, and
16 all noncharter public elementary and secondary schools shall be
17 accredited under this system.

18 (2) School districts shall be required to provide school
19 classroom space that is air-conditioned as a minimum requirement
20 for accreditation.



(3) (a) The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on School Accreditation, shall require that school districts employ certified school librarians according to the following formula:

Number of Students Per School Library	Number of Certified School Librarians
0 - 499 Students	1/2 Full-time Equivalent Certified Librarian
500 or More Students	1 Full-time Certified Librarian

(b) The State Board of Education, however, may increase the number of positions beyond the above requirements.

(c) The assignment of certified school librarians to the particular schools shall be at the discretion of the local school district. No individual shall be employed as a certified school librarian without appropriate training and certification as a school librarian by the State Department of Education.

(d) School librarians in the district shall spend at least fifty percent (50%) of direct work time in a school library and shall devote no more than one-fourth (1/4) of the workday to administrative activities that are library related.

(e) Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit any school district from employing more certified school librarians than are provided for in this section.



(f) Any additional millage levied to fund school librarians required for accreditation under this subsection shall be included in the tax increase limitation set forth in Sections 37-57-105 and 37-57-107 and shall not be deemed a new program for purposes of the limitation.

(4) [Deleted]

(5) (a) The State Department of Education, acting through the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation, shall implement a single "A" through "F" school and school district accountability system complying with applicable federal and state requirements in order to reach the following educational goals:

(i) To mobilize resources and supplies to ensure that all students exit third grade reading on grade level;

(ii) To reduce the student dropout rate to ten percent (10%) by 2015; and

(iii) To have sixty percent (60%) of students scoring proficient and advanced on assessments.

(b) The State Department of Education shall combine the state school and school district accountability system with the federal system in order to have a single system.

(c) The State Department of Education shall establish five (5) performance categories ("A," "B," "C," "D" and "F") for the accountability system based on the following criteria:

(i) Student Achievement: the percent of students proficient and advanced on the current state assessments;



(ii) Individual student growth: the percent of students making one (1) year's progress in one (1) year's time on the state assessment, with an emphasis on the progress of the lowest twenty-five percent (25%) of students in the school or district;

(iii) Four-year graduation rate: the percent of students graduating with a standard high school diploma in four (4) years, as defined by federal regulations;

(iv) The system shall include the federally compliant four-year graduation rate in school and school district accountability system calculations. Graduation rate will apply to high school and school district accountability ratings as a compensatory component. The system shall discontinue the use of the High School Completer Index (HSCI);

(v) The school and school district accountability system shall incorporate a standards-based growth model, in order to support improvement of individual student learning;

(vi) The State Department of Education shall determine feeder patterns of schools that do not earn a school grade because the grades and subjects taught at the school do not have statewide standardized assessments needed to calculate a school grade. Upon determination of the feeder pattern, the department shall notify schools and school districts prior to the release of the school grades. Feeder schools will be assigned the



accountability designation of the school to which they provide students;

(vii) Standards for student, school and school district performance will be increased when student proficiency is at a seventy-five percent (75%) and/or when sixty-five percent (65%) of the schools and/or school districts are earning a grade of "B" or higher, in order to raise the standard on performance after targets are met; and

(viii) The system shall include student performance on the administration of a career-readiness assessment, such as, but not limited to, the ACT WorkKeys Assessment, deemed appropriate by the State Department of Education working in coordination with the Office of Workforce Development.

(6) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require a nonpublic school that receives no local, state or federal funds for support to become accredited by the State Board of Education.

(7) The State Board of Education shall create an accreditation audit unit under the Commission on School Accreditation to determine whether schools are complying with accreditation standards.

(8) The State Board of Education shall be specifically authorized and empowered to withhold allocations from the total funding formula funds as provided in Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215 to any public school district for failure to timely



report student, school personnel and fiscal data necessary to meet state and/or federal requirements.

(9) [Deleted]

(10) The State Board of Education shall establish, for those school districts failing to meet accreditation standards, a program of development to be complied with in order to receive state funds, except as otherwise provided in subsection (15) of this section when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in a school district or as otherwise provided in Section 206, Mississippi Constitution of 1890. The state board, in establishing these standards, shall provide for notice to schools and sufficient time and aid to enable schools to attempt to meet these standards, unless procedures under subsection (15) of this section have been invoked.

(11) The State Board of Education shall be charged with the implementation of the program of development in each applicable school district as follows:

(a) Develop an impairment report for each district failing to meet accreditation standards in conjunction with school district officials;

(b) Notify any applicable school district failing to meet accreditation standards that it is on probation until corrective actions are taken or until the deficiencies have been removed. The local school district shall develop a corrective action plan to improve its deficiencies. For district academic



deficiencies, the corrective action plan for each such school district shall be based upon a complete analysis of the following: student test data, student grades, student attendance reports, student dropout data, existence and other relevant data. The corrective action plan shall describe the specific measures to be taken by the particular school district and school to improve:

- (i) instruction; (ii) curriculum; (iii) professional development;
- (iv) personnel and classroom organization; (v) student incentives for performance; (vi) process deficiencies; and (vii) reporting to the local school board, parents and the community. The corrective action plan shall describe the specific individuals responsible for implementing each component of the recommendation and how each will be evaluated. All corrective action plans shall be provided to the State Board of Education as may be required. The decision of the State Board of Education establishing the probationary period of time shall be final;

(c) Offer, during the probationary period, technical assistance to the school district in making corrective actions. Subject to appropriations, the State Department of Education shall provide technical and/or financial assistance to all such school districts in order to implement each measure identified in that district's corrective action plan through professional development and on-site assistance. Each such school district shall apply for and utilize all available federal funding in order to support its



corrective action plan in addition to state funds made available under this paragraph;

(d) Assign department personnel or contract, in its discretion, with the institutions of higher learning or other appropriate private entities with experience in the academic, finance and other operational functions of schools to assist school districts;

(e) Provide for publication of public notice at least one time during the probationary period, in a newspaper published within the jurisdiction of the school district failing to meet accreditation standards, or if no newspaper is published therein, then in a newspaper having a general circulation therein. The publication shall include the following: declaration of school system's status as being on probation; all details relating to the impairment report; and other information as the State Board of Education deems appropriate. Public notices issued under this section shall be subject to Section 13-3-31 and not contrary to other laws regarding newspaper publication.

(12) (a) If the recommendations for corrective action are not taken by the local school district or if the deficiencies are not removed by the end of the probationary period, the Commission on School Accreditation shall conduct a hearing to allow the affected school district to present evidence or other reasons why its accreditation should not be withdrawn. Additionally, if the local school district violates accreditation standards that have



193 been determined by the policies and procedures of the State Board
194 of Education to be a basis for withdrawal of school district's
195 accreditation without a probationary period, the Commission on
196 School Accreditation shall conduct a hearing to allow the affected
197 school district to present evidence or other reasons why its
198 accreditation should not be withdrawn. After its consideration of
199 the results of the hearing, the Commission on School Accreditation
200 shall be authorized, with the approval of the State Board of
201 Education, to withdraw the accreditation of a public school
202 district, and issue a request to the Governor that a state of
203 emergency be declared in that district.

204 (b) (i) If the State Board of Education and the
205 Commission on School Accreditation determine that an extreme
206 emergency situation exists in a school district that jeopardizes
207 the safety, security or educational interests of the children
208 enrolled in the schools in that district and that emergency
209 situation is believed to be related to a serious violation or
210 violations of accreditation standards or state or federal law, the
211 State Board of Education may request the Governor to declare a
212 state of emergency in that school district. For purposes of this
213 paragraph, the declarations of a state of emergency district's
214 impairments * * * may include the school district's serious
215 failure to meet minimum academic standards, as evidenced by a
216 continued pattern of poor student performance, or impairments
217 related to a lack of financial resources.



(ii) If the State Board of Education determines that a public school or district in the state which, during each of two (2) consecutive school years or during two (2) of three (3) consecutive school years, receives an "F" designation by the State Board of Education under the accountability rating system or has been persistently failing as defined by the State Board of Education; or if the State Board of Education determines that a public school or district in the state which, during each of four (4) consecutive school years, receives a "D" or "F" designation by the State Board of Education under the accountability rating system or has been persistently failing as defined by the State Board of Education; or if more than fifty percent (50%) of the schools within a school district are designated as Schools-At-Risk in any one (1) year, then the board may place such school or district into a District of Transformation. The State Board of Education shall take over only the number of schools and districts for which it has the capacity to serve. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and regulations governing any additional requirements for placement into a District of Transformation and the operation thereof. School districts or schools that are eligible to be placed into a District of Transformation due to poor academic performance but are not absorbed due to the capacity of the State Board of Education, shall develop and implement a district improvement plan with prescriptive guidance and support from the Mississippi Department



of Education, with the goal of helping the district improve student achievement. Failure of the school board, superintendent and school district staff to implement the plan with fidelity and participate in the activities provided as support by the department shall result in the school district retaining its eligibility for placement into a District of Transformation.

(iii) If the State Board of Education determined that a school district is impaired with a serious lack of financial resources, the State Board of Education may place the school district into a District of Transformation. If a school district is placed into a District of Transformation for financial reasons, the school district shall be required to reimburse the state for any costs incurred by the state on behalf of the school district.

(c) Whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district in response to a request made under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection, or when the State Board of Education places a school district into a District of Transformation due to poor academic performance or financial reasons, the State Board of Education may take one or more of the following actions:

(i) Declare a state of emergency, under which some or all of state funds can be escrowed except as otherwise provided in Section 206, Constitution of 1890, until the board determines corrective actions are being taken or the deficiencies have been



268 removed, or that the needs of students warrant the release of
269 funds. The funds may be released from escrow for any program
270 which the board determines to have been restored to standard even
271 though the state of emergency may not as yet be terminated for the
272 district as a whole;

273 (ii) Override any decision of the local school
274 board or superintendent of education, or both, concerning the
275 management and operation of the school district, or initiate and
276 make decisions concerning the management and operation of the
277 school district;

278 (iii) Assign an interim superintendent, or in its
279 discretion, contract with a private entity with experience in the
280 academic, finance and other operational functions of schools and
281 school districts, who will have those powers and duties prescribed
282 in subsection (15) of this section;

283 (iv) Grant transfers to students who attend this
284 school district so that they may attend other accredited schools
285 or districts in a manner that is not in violation of state or
286 federal law;

287 (v) For states of emergency declared under
288 paragraph (a) only, if the accreditation deficiencies are related
289 to the fact that the school district is too small, with too few
290 resources, to meet the required standards and if another school
291 district is willing to accept those students, abolish that
292 district and assign that territory to another school district or



293 districts. If the school district has proposed a voluntary
294 consolidation with another school district or districts, then if
295 the State Board of Education finds that it is in the best interest
296 of the pupils of the district for the consolidation to proceed,
297 the voluntary consolidation shall have priority over any such
298 assignment of territory by the State Board of Education;

299 (vi) For actions taken pursuant to paragraph (b)
300 only, reduce local supplements paid to school district employees,
301 including, but not limited to, instructional personnel, assistant
302 teachers and extracurricular activities personnel, if the
303 district's impairment is related to a lack of financial resources,
304 but only to an extent that will result in the salaries being
305 comparable to districts similarly situated, as determined by the
306 State Board of Education;

307 (vii) For actions taken pursuant to paragraph (b)
308 only, the State Board of Education may take any action as
309 prescribed in Section 37-17-13.

310 (d) At the time that satisfactory corrective action has
311 been taken in a school district in which a state of emergency has
312 been declared, the State Board of Education may request the
313 Governor to declare that the state of emergency no longer exists
314 in the district.

315 (e) The parent or legal guardian of a school-age child
316 who is enrolled in a school district whose accreditation has been
317 withdrawn by the Commission on School Accreditation and without



approval of that school district may file a petition in writing to a school district accredited by the Commission on School Accreditation for a legal transfer. The school district accredited by the Commission on School Accreditation may grant the transfer according to the procedures of Section 37-15-31(1)(b). In the event the accreditation of the student's home district is restored after a transfer has been approved, the student may continue to attend the transferee school district. The per pupil amount of the total funding formula allotment for the student's home school district shall be transferred monthly to the school district accredited by the Commission on School Accreditation that has granted the transfer of the school-age child.

(f) Upon the declaration of a state of emergency for any school district in which the Governor has previously declared a state of emergency, the State Board of Education may either:

(i) Place the school district into district transformation, in which the school district shall remain until it has fulfilled all conditions related to district transformation. If the district was assigned an accreditation rating of "D" or "F" when placed into district transformation, the district shall be eligible to return to local control when the school district has attained a "C" rating or higher for three (3) consecutive years;

(ii) Abolish the school district and administratively consolidate the school district with one or more existing school districts;



(iii) Reduce the size of the district and administratively consolidate parts of the district, as determined by the State Board of Education. However, no school district which is not in district transformation shall be required to accept additional territory over the objection of the district; or

(iv) Require the school district to develop and implement a district improvement plan with prescriptive guidance and support from the State Department of Education, with the goal of helping the district improve student achievement. Failure of the school board, superintendent and school district staff to implement the plan with fidelity and participate in the activities provided as support by the department shall result in the school district retaining its eligibility for district transformation.

(13) Upon the declaration of a state of emergency in a school district under subsection (12) of this section, or upon the State Board of Education's placement of a school district into a District of Transformation for academic or financial reasons, the Commission on School Accreditation shall be responsible for public notice at least once a week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published within the jurisdiction of the school district failing to meet accreditation standards, or if no newspaper is published therein, then in a newspaper having a general circulation therein. The size of the notice shall be no smaller than one-fourth (1/4) of a standard newspaper page and shall be printed in bold print. If an interim superintendent has



368 been appointed for the school district, the notice shall begin as
369 follows: "By authority of Section 37-17-6, Mississippi Code of
370 1972, as amended, adopted by the Mississippi Legislature during
371 the 1991 Regular Session, this school district (name of school
372 district) is hereby placed under the jurisdiction of the State
373 Department of Education acting through its appointed interim
374 superintendent (name of interim superintendent)."

375 The notice also shall include, in the discretion of the State
376 Board of Education, any or all details relating to the school
377 district's emergency status, including the declaration of a state
378 of emergency in the school district and a description of the
379 district's impairment deficiencies, conditions of any district
380 transformation status and corrective actions recommended and being
381 taken. Public notices issued under this section shall be subject
382 to Section 13-3-31 and not contrary to other laws regarding
383 newspaper publication.

384 Upon termination of a school district in a District of
385 Transformation, the Commission on School Accreditation shall cause
386 notice to be published in the school district in the same manner
387 provided in this section, to include any or all details relating
388 to the corrective action taken in the school district that
389 resulted in the termination of the state of emergency.

390 (14) The State Board of Education or the Commission on
391 School Accreditation shall have the authority to require school
392 districts to produce the necessary reports, correspondence,



financial statements, and any other documents and information necessary to fulfill the requirements of this section.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to grant any individual, corporation, board or interim superintendent the authority to levy taxes except in accordance with presently existing statutory provisions.

(15) (a) Whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district in response to a request made under subsection (12) of this section, or when the State Board of Education places a school district into a District of Transformation for academic or financial reasons, the State Board of Education, in its discretion, may assign an interim superintendent to the school district, or in its discretion, may contract with an appropriate private entity with experience in the academic, finance and other operational functions of schools and school districts, who will be responsible for the administration, management and operation of the school district, including, but not limited to, the following activities:

(i) Approving or disapproving all financial obligations of the district, including, but not limited to, the employment, termination, nonrenewal and reassignment of all licensed and nonlicensed personnel, contractual agreements and purchase orders, and approving or disapproving all claim dockets and the issuance of checks; in approving or disapproving employment contracts of superintendents, assistant superintendents



or principals, the interim superintendent shall not be required to comply with the time limitations prescribed in Sections 37-9-15 and 37-9-105;

(ii) Supervising the day-to-day activities of the district's staff, including reassigning the duties and responsibilities of personnel in a manner which, in the determination of the interim superintendent, will best suit the needs of the district;

(iii) Reviewing the district's total financial obligations and operations and making recommendations to the district for cost savings, including, but not limited to, reassigning the duties and responsibilities of staff;

(iv) Attending all meetings of the district's school board and administrative staff;

(v) Approving or disapproving all athletic, band and other extracurricular activities and any matters related to those activities;

(vi) Maintaining a detailed account of recommendations made to the district and actions taken in response to those recommendations;

(vii) Reporting periodically to the State Board of Education on the progress or lack of progress being made in the district to improve the district's impairments during the state of emergency; and



(viii) Appointing a parent advisory committee, comprised of parents of students in the school district that may make recommendations to the interim superintendent concerning the administration, management and operation of the school district.

The cost of the salary of the interim superintendent and any other actual and necessary costs related to district transformation status paid by the State Department of Education shall be reimbursed by the local school district from funds other than total funding formula funds as provided in Sections 37-151-200 through 37-151-215. In the alternative, the local school district may pay the cost of the salary of the interim superintendent. The department shall submit an itemized statement to the superintendent of the local school district for reimbursement purposes, and any unpaid balance may be withheld from the district's funding formula funds.

At the time that the Governor, in accordance with the request of the State Board of Education, declares that the state of emergency no longer exists in a school district, * * * during the school board's first year fully administering the school district, the interim superintendent shall continue to serve alongside both the school board and the school district's newly appointed superintendent in an advisory and oversight capacity and shall make periodic reports to the State Board of Education.

(b) In order to provide loans to school districts under a state of emergency or in district transformation status that



467 have impairments related to a lack of financial resources, the
468 School District Emergency Assistance Fund is created as a special
469 fund in the State Treasury into which monies may be transferred or
470 appropriated by the Legislature from any available public
471 education funds. Funds in the School District Emergency
472 Assistance Fund up to a maximum balance of Three Million Dollars
473 (\$3,000,000.00) annually shall not lapse but shall be available
474 for expenditure in subsequent years subject to approval of the
475 State Board of Education. Any amount in the fund in excess of
476 Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) at the end of the fiscal
477 year shall lapse into the State General Fund or the Education
478 Enhancement Fund, depending on the source of the fund.

479 The State Board of Education may loan monies from the School
480 District Emergency Assistance Fund to a school district that is
481 under a state of emergency or in district transformation status,
482 in those amounts, as determined by the board, that are necessary
483 to correct the district's impairments related to a lack of
484 financial resources. The loans shall be evidenced by an agreement
485 between the school district and the State Board of Education and
486 shall be repayable in principal, without necessity of interest, to
487 the School District Emergency Assistance Fund by the school
488 district from any allowable funds that are available. The total
489 amount loaned to the district shall be due and payable within five
490 (5) years after the impairments related to a lack of financial
491 resources are corrected. If a school district fails to make



492 payments on the loan in accordance with the terms of the agreement
493 between the district and the State Board of Education, the State
494 Department of Education, in accordance with rules and regulations
495 established by the State Board of Education, may withhold that
496 district's total funding formula funds in an amount and manner
497 that will effectuate repayment consistent with the terms of the
498 agreement; the funds withheld by the department shall be deposited
499 into the School District Emergency Assistance Fund.

500 The State Board of Education shall develop a protocol that
501 will outline the performance standards and requisite timeline
502 deemed necessary for extreme emergency measures. If the State
503 Board of Education determines that an extreme emergency exists,
504 simultaneous with the powers exercised in this subsection, it
505 shall take immediate action against all parties responsible for
506 the affected school districts having been determined to be in an
507 extreme emergency. The action shall include, but not be limited
508 to, initiating civil actions to recover funds and criminal actions
509 to account for criminal activity. Any funds recovered by the
510 State Auditor or the State Board of Education from the surety
511 bonds of school officials or from any civil action brought under
512 this subsection shall be applied toward the repayment of any loan
513 made to a school district hereunder.

514 (16) [Deleted]

515 (17) [Deleted]



(18) The State Board of Education, acting through the Commission on School Accreditation, shall require each school district to comply with standards established by the State Department of Audit for the verification of fixed assets and the auditing of fixed assets records as a minimum requirement for accreditation.

(19) [Deleted]

(20) [Deleted]

(21) If a local school district is determined as failing and placed into district transformation status for reasons authorized by the provisions of this section, the interim superintendent appointed to the district shall, within forty-five (45) days after being appointed, present a detailed and structured corrective action plan to move the local school district out of district transformation status to the deputy superintendent. A copy of the interim superintendent's corrective action plan shall also be filed with the State Board of Education.

SECTION 2. Section 37-17-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-17-13. (1) Whenever the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district in response to a certification by the State Board of Education and the Commission on School Accreditation made under Section 37-17-6(12)(b), or when the State Board of Education places a school district into a District of Transformation for academic or financial reasons under Section



37-17-6(12) (b), the State Board of Education, in addition to any actions taken under Section 37-17-6, shall abolish the school district and assume control and administration of the schools formerly constituting the district, and appoint an interim superintendent to carry out this purpose under the direction of the State Board of Education. In such case, the State Board of Education shall have all powers which were held by the previously existing school board, and the previously existing superintendent of schools or county superintendent of education, including, but not limited to, those enumerated in Section 37-7-301, and the authority to request tax levies from the appropriate governing authorities for the support of the schools and to receive and expend the tax funds as provided by Section 37-57-1 et seq. and Section 37-57-105 et seq.

(2) When a school district is abolished under this section, loans from the School District Emergency Assistance Fund may be made by the State Board of Education for the use and benefit of the schools formerly constituting the district in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 37-17-6(15) for such loans to the district. The abolition of a school district under this section shall not impair or release the property of that school district from liability for the payment of the loan indebtedness, and it shall be the duty of the appropriate governing authorities to levy taxes on the property of the district so abolished from



565 year to year according to the terms of the indebtedness until same
566 shall be fully paid.

567 (3) After a local school board is abolished by the State
568 Board of Education, at such time the State Board of Education
569 determines that the impairments are being substantially corrected
570 and the responsibility of the district transformation in such
571 district upon the conclusion of the final scholastic year in which
572 a district has maintained a "C" accountability rating for three
573 (3) consecutive years, the State Board of Education may appoint a
574 new five-member board for the administration of the school
575 district and shall notify the local county board of supervisors
576 and/or municipal governing authority of such appointment,
577 spreading the names of the new school board members on its
578 minutes. The new local school board members shall be residents of
579 the school district. The new local school board members appointed
580 by the State Board of Education may serve in an advisory capacity
581 to the interim superintendent for its first year of service and
582 thereafter shall have full responsibility to administer the school
583 district. Thirty (30) days prior to the end of the first year of
584 office as an advisory board, each member shall draw lots to
585 determine when the members shall rotate off the board as follows:
586 one (1) member shall serve a one-year term of office; one (1)
587 member shall serve a two-year term of office; one (1) member shall
588 serve a three-year term of office; one (1) member shall serve a
589 four-year term of office; and one (1) member shall serve a



590 five-year term of office. At that time, the State Board of
591 Education shall notify the appropriate board of supervisors or
592 municipal governing authority of this action and request them to
593 provide for the election or appointment of school board members at
594 the end of the terms of office in the manner provided by law, in
595 order for the local residents of the school district to select a
596 new school board on a phased-in basis. In such situations, the
597 Governor will set the date of any necessary special election which
598 shall be conducted by the county election commission. * * *

599 During the school board's first year fully administering the
600 school district, the interim superintendent shall continue to
601 serve alongside both the school board and the school district's
602 newly appointed superintendent in an advisory and oversight
603 capacity and shall make periodic reports to the State Board of
604 Education. A board member or superintendent in office at the time
605 the Governor declares a state of emergency in a school district,
606 or when the State Board of Education places a school district into
607 a District of Transformation due to academic or financial reasons,
608 shall not be eligible to serve in the office of school board
609 member or superintendent for the school district reconstituted or
610 reorganized following the district transformation period.

611 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
612 and after July 1, 2025.

