

By: Flaggs

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 163

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI TEACHER CENTER TO CONDUCT A
2 STUDY ON WAYS TO EFFECTIVELY RECRUIT AND RETAIN AFRICAN-AMERICAN
3 TEACHERS; TO REQUIRE THE CENTER TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT
4 DETAILING ITS FINDINGS TO THE 2001 LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The Mississippi Teacher Center of the State
8 Department of Education shall conduct a study on the recruitment
9 of African-American teachers for the purpose of identifying
10 factors that have a negative impact on the number of
11 African-Americans in the teaching profession and exploring various
12 means to increase the number of African-Americans in licensed
13 teaching positions. The study shall include, but not be limited
14 to, the following components:

15 (a) A statement of the number of African-Americans
16 holding licensed teaching positions compared to the total number
17 of licensed teachers in Mississippi;

18 (b) An analysis of the affect of various factors on the
19 number of African-American teachers, including: state
20 demographics; admission requirements to teacher education programs
21 in the state; teacher licensing requirements; teachers' salaries;
22 and any other influences deemed pertinent by the Mississippi

23 Teacher Center;

24 (c) Recommendations for a minority recruiting program
25 that exposes African-American students at the grade school level
26 to the idea of a career in teaching;

27 (d) Recommendations for a program that would encourage
28 African-American assistant teachers to become licensed teachers;
29 and

30 (e) Recommendations for an effective process for hiring
31 and retaining African-American licensed teachers, from within
32 state and out of state, and persons who exhibit potential for a
33 career in teaching.

34 Before January 10, 2001, the Mississippi Teacher Center shall
35 submit a written report detailing the results of its study and
36 recommending any legislation necessary for the implementation of
37 its proposals to the Legislature.

38 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after its passage.