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To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2765

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE "MISSISSIPPI COMPREHENSIVE EARLY
2 CHILDHOOD SERVICES ACT OF 2000"; TO ESTABLISH AN EARLY CHILDHOOD
3 SERVICES INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
4 MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNCIL; TO DEFINE THE
5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL; TO ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY
6 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
7 SERVICES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND
8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; TO AUTHORIZE AND
9 DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
10 SERVICE TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PARENT/FAMILY EDUCATION
11 PROGRAM TO SPECIFY CERTAIN MODELS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
12 PROGRAMS AND TO ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS, TO AUTHORIZE THE
13 USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS AND
14 TO REQUIRE A REPORTING PROCESS FOR SUCH PROGRAMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE
15 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE
16 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO MAKE
17 AVAILABLE A FULL DAY VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION PROGRAM
18 FOR CERTAIN FOUR-YEAR OLD CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, TO
19 ESTABLISH CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM, TO DIRECT THE STATE
20 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCESS FOR
21 PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
22 EDUCATION TO USE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR GRANTS TO PARTICIPATING
23 PROGRAMS AND TO REQUIRE CERTAIN REPORTS ON THE PROGRAM; TO AMEND
24 SECTION 43-20-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY CERTAIN
25 EXEMPTIONS FROM THE CHILD CARE FACILITY LICENSURE LAW; TO AMEND
26 SECTION 37-159-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS
27 ENROLLED IN CERTAIN COLLEGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS WHO AGREE TO TEACH
28 OR BE EMPLOYED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN THE CRITICAL
29 NEEDS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-2,
30 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE A PERSON HOLDING A BACHELOR
31 OF SCIENCE DEGREE WITH CHILD DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS FROM A PROGRAM
32 ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER
33 SCIENCES TO APPLY FOR A STANDARD LICENSE TO TEACH IN PUBLIC
34 PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS; AND FOR RELATED
35 PURPOSES.

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

37 SECTION 1. (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as
38 the "Mississippi Comprehensive Early Childhood Services Act of
39 2000."

40 (2) As used in this act, "preschool aged children" means any
41 children age 0-5 who have not reached the age of enrollment for
42 public school kindergarten;

43 (3) To ensure that all families have access to early
44 childhood education and development services in order to maximize
45 the potential for children to succeed in school, the Legislature
46 hereby finds and declares that:

47 (a) Parents have the primary duty to care for
48 and educate their young preschool children;

49 (b) Children in families at all income levels spend
50 their pre-school years in one or more of the following care-giving
51 situations: (i) parental care, (ii) kinship care, (iii)
52 home-based child care, (iv) community-based early care and
53 education programs including Head Start, and (v) public and
54 private school pre-kindergarten programs;

55 (c) Any assistance provided families should consider
56 a family's preference for caregiving situations reflecting the
57 family's religious, cultural and community values;

58 (d) The State of Mississippi can assist parents in
59 their role as the primary caregivers and educators of young
60 preschool children by making education and support services
61 available to all caregivers; and

62 (e) There is a need to explore multiple approaches and
63 strategies for aiding parents and families in the education and
64 development of preschool children to ensure all families have
65 access to services needed to prepare children for the challenges
66 of formal schooling.

67 (4) It is the intent of this act to expand existing programs
68 and services, maximize the use of existing state and federal funds
69 available for these services, and coordinate and clarify early
70 childhood services provided by the State of Mississippi. It is
71 further the intent of the Legislature to utilize to the maximum
72 extent possible any unused federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
73 Families funds for early child care and other early childhood
74 services authorized under this act. All provisions of this act
75 are subject to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

76 SECTION 2. (1) The Early Childhood Services Interagency
77 Coordinating Council is hereby created to ensure coordination
78 among the various agencies and programs serving preschool children
79 in order to support school district's efforts to achieve the goal
80 of readiness to start school, to facilitate communication,
81 cooperation and maximum use of resources and to promote high
82 standards for all programs serving preschool children and their
83 families in Mississippi.

84 (2) The membership of the Early Childhood Services
85 Interagency Coordinating Council shall be as follows:

86 (a) The State Superintendent of Education;

87 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of Health;

88 (c) The Executive Director of the Department of Human
89 Services;

90 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
91 Department of Mental Health;

92 (e) The Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid,
93 Office of the Governor;

94 (f) The Executive Director of the State Department of
95 Rehabilitation Services;

96 (g) The Commissioner of Higher Education;

97 (h) The Executive Director of the State Board for
98 Community and Junior Colleges;

99 (i) The Executive Director of Mississippi Educational
100 Television;

101 (j) The President of the Mississippi Head Start
102 Association; and

103 (k) The Director of the Mississippi State University
104 Cooperative Extension Service.

105 (3) The council shall meet upon call of the Governor not
106 later than August 1, 2000, and shall organize for business by
107 selecting a chairman who shall serve for a one-year term and may
108 be selected for subsequent terms. The council shall adopt

109 internal organizational procedures necessary for efficient
110 operation of the council. Council procedures shall include duties
111 of officers, a process for selecting officers, quorum requirements
112 for conducting business and policies for any council staff. Each
113 member of the council shall designate necessary staff of their
114 departments to assist the council in performing its duties and
115 responsibilities. The council shall meet and conduct business at
116 least quarterly. Meetings of the council shall be open to the
117 public and opportunity for public comment shall be made available
118 at each such meeting. The chairman of the council shall notify
119 all persons who request such notice as to the date, time and place
120 of each meeting.

121 (4) Members of the council shall receive no compensation for
122 their services, but shall be reimbursed for travel and other
123 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their official
124 duties. Such reimbursement shall be paid in accordance with the
125 provisions of Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall
126 be approved by the chairman of the council.

127 (5) The Early Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating
128 Council shall perform each of the following duties:

129 (a) Serve as interagency coordinating council for the
130 various agencies, public and private programs serving preschool
131 children and their families in the State of Mississippi;

132 (b) Advise the State Board of Health, the State Board
133 of Education, the Department of Human Services, Mississippi
134 Department of Mental Health, Division of Medicaid, Department of
135 Rehabilitation Services and any other appropriate agency,
136 concerning standards, rules, rule revisions, agency guidelines and
137 administration affecting child care facilities, pre-kindergarten
138 programs, family training programs and other programs and services
139 for preschool children and families;

140 (c) Collect, compile and distribute data relating to
141 all programs and services for preschool children and families,

142 including, but not limited to, an inventory of the programs and
143 services available in each county of the state; and identify and
144 make recommendations with regard to program areas for which an
145 unfulfilled need exists within the state for accurate and
146 accessible information;

147 (d) Review and analyze spending priorities for each
148 state agency which utilizes state or federal funds to administer
149 or provide programs and services for preschool children and make
150 recommendations thereon to the Legislative Budget Committee and
151 the Governor;

152 (e) Publish annually, on or before November 1, a
153 comprehensive report on the status of all programs and services
154 for preschool children in Mississippi and distribute the report to
155 the Governor, the Legislature, local school districts and make the
156 report available to the general public, using the following
157 criteria:

- 158 (i) Program name and location;
- 159 (ii) Dates of operation;
- 160 (iii) Service provided;
- 161 (iv) Target population and number served;
- 162 (v) Eligibility requirement;
- 163 (vi) Funding source;
- 164 (vii) Amount of funding per unit;
- 165 (viii) Annual cost;
- 166 (ix) Evaluation type and results; and
- 167 (x) The state agency administering the program.

168 (f) Receive and consider recommendations of the
169 Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood Services
170 established in Section 3; and

171 (g) Apply for, receive and administer funds for
172 research, planning and evaluation of all programs serving
173 preschool children and their families.

174 SECTION 3. (1) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early

175 Childhood Services is hereby created to develop and make
176 recommendations to the Early Childhood Services Interagency
177 Coordinating Council established under Section 2 of this act as
178 deemed necessary to implement the council's responsibilities
179 relating to all programs serving preschool children and their
180 families in Mississippi.

181 (2) The membership of the Interagency Advisory Committee for
182 Early Childhood Services shall be as follows:

183 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate Education, Public Health
184 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their designees;

185 (b) The Chairmen of the House Education, Public Health
186 and Welfare and Appropriations Committees, or their designees;

187 (c) A representative of the Governor;

188 (d) A representative of the State Department of
189 Education;

190 (e) A representative of the State Department of Health;

191 (f) A representative of the Department of Human
192 Services;

193 (g) A representative of the Mississippi Department of
194 Mental Health;

195 (h) A representative of the State Department of
196 Rehabilitation Services;

197 (i) The following representatives of the early
198 childhood profession:

199 (i) The President of the Mississippi Head Start
200 Association;

201 (ii) A representative from a regulated family
202 child care home network appointed by the Governor;

203 (iii) A representative from a licensed child care
204 center appointed by the President of the Senate;

205 (iv) A representative from a public school
206 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the House;

207 (v) A representative from a private school

208 pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Governor;

209 (vi) A representative from a half-day church
210 sponsored pre-kindergarten program appointed by the Speaker of the
211 House;

212 (vii) A representative from a university or
213 college early childhood program appointed by the President of the
214 Senate;

215 (viii) A representative of a tribal early
216 childhood program appointed by the Governor;

217 (ix) A representative of an early childhood
218 professional organization appointed by the President of the
219 Senate;

220 (x) A representative of an advocacy organization
221 appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

222 (xi) A representative of a community/junior
223 college early childhood program appointed by the Governor;

224 (j) A parent of a preschool-age child appointed by the
225 Governor;

226 (k) A parent of a preschool-age child with special
227 needs appointed by the Speaker of the House;

228 (l) A representative of the cooperative extension
229 services appointed by the President of the Senate;

230 (m) A physician who is a member of the Mississippi
231 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, appointed by the
232 Director of the University Medical Center;

233 (n) The Director of the Mississippi Public Education
234 Forum, or his designee; and

235 (o) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Economic
236 Council, or his designee.

237 To the extent possible, any representative of a state agency
238 designated to serve on the Interagency Advisory Committee shall be
239 the same individual designated to assist the Interagency
240 Coordinating Council in performing its duties and

241 responsibilities.

242 (3) The advisory committee shall meet upon call of the Early
243 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council not later than
244 August 1, 2000, and the council shall appoint a chairman who shall
245 serve for a one-year term and may be reappointed for subsequent
246 terms. The advisory committee shall adopt internal organizational
247 procedures necessary for efficient operation of the advisory
248 committee and may establish subcommittees for conducting specific
249 programs and activities. Advisory committee procedures shall
250 include duties of officers, a process for selecting officers,
251 duties of subcommittees, quorum requirements for conducting
252 business and policies for any staff. The members of the Early
253 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council shall
254 designate necessary staff of their departments to assist the
255 advisory committee in performing its duties and responsibilities.

256 The advisory committee shall meet and conduct business at least
257 quarterly. Quarterly meetings of the advisory committee shall be
258 open to the public and opportunity for public comment shall be
259 made available at each such meeting. The staff of the advisory
260 committee shall notify all persons who request such notice as to
261 the date, time and place of each quarterly meeting.

262 (4) Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall
263 receive no compensation for their services, but shall be
264 reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually incurred in the
265 performance of their official duties. Such reimbursement shall be
266 paid in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-3-41,
267 Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be approved by the chairman of
268 the advisory committee. Legislative members of the advisory
269 committee shall receive the same per diem and expense
270 reimbursement as is authorized for interim committee meetings to
271 be paid from the contingent expense funds of the respective
272 chamber.

273 (5) The Interagency Advisory Committee for Early Childhood

274 Services, in addition to responsibilities assigned by the Early
275 Childhood Services Interagency Coordinating Council, shall perform
276 each of the following duties:

277 (a) Assist in the implementation of the study conducted
278 by the Task Force on the Development and Implementation of
279 Comprehensive Early Childhood Services in Mississippi established
280 under Senate Bill No. 2618 (1999 Regular Session);

281 (b) Identify services to children which impact early
282 childhood development and education;

283 (c) Identify and recommend methods to facilitate
284 interagency coordination of service programs for preschool
285 children;

286 (d) Serve as a forum for information exchange regarding
287 recommendations and priorities in early childhood development and
288 education; and

289 (e) Advise and make recommendations to the interagency
290 council as deemed necessary to effectuate the council's
291 responsibilities.

292 SECTION 4. (1) The Mississippi State University Cooperative
293 Extension Service, in its discretion, may offer funds for
294 replication of voluntary parent/family education programs that
295 support and affirm the role of parents as the primary early
296 childhood educator of their children for families with children
297 aged pre-natal through four (4) years, or until entering
298 kindergarten, using personal visits. The parent/family education
299 programs shall provide parents with opportunities to voluntarily
300 obtain support and services that will enable them to provide
301 optimum learning environments for their children, particularly
302 from birth to the age of four (4) years, within the home or
303 selected site. These programs shall use research-based,
304 independently-evaluated, proven research models showing the
305 following outcomes: (a) children with enhanced language,
306 problem-solving and social development; (b) children entering

307 school with increased readiness skills; (c) fewer children placed
308 in special education or remedial classes; (d) lower incidence of
309 child abuse and neglect; (e) higher scores on standardized reading
310 and math tests in elementary grades; (f) parents are more
311 confident in their parenting knowledge and skills; (g) parents who
312 read more to their children; and (h) more parental involvement
313 when children enter school. Program outcomes shall be determined
314 through a long-range evaluation that tracks participating children
315 through the third grade. These programs shall include "Drop-in
316 Play and Learn Respite Services for Relative Caregivers" which
317 shall mean a program providing occasional short-term respite care
318 to the relative caregivers of preschool age children thus creating
319 the opportunity to address the school readiness needs of children
320 in relative care while their parent(s) work).

321 (2) The Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension
322 Service shall (a) determine a process for interested school
323 districts and other nonprofit entities in partnership with a
324 school district to apply for grant funds in order to participate
325 in the programs; (b) monitor program operations; (c) evaluate
326 program effectiveness; and (d) develop rules for the
327 administration of the program. In developing the process, the
328 Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service shall
329 utilize, but not be limited to, representatives of the following
330 categories: parents; local school districts' parent education
331 programs staff; the Department of Human Services, Division of
332 Family and Children's Services; Head Start; the State Department
333 of Education and USOE funded parental assistance programs. In the
334 event an Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood
335 Services, or similar organization, is established by act of the
336 Legislature, the Mississippi State University Cooperative
337 Extension Service may contract with such interagency council for
338 the performance of its duties and responsibilities under this act.

339 (3) As part of the application process for participation in

340 the program, applicants must demonstrate to the council that the
341 program is a collaborative undertaking of various community
342 organizations. School districts and other nonprofit entities in
343 partnership with a school district applying for funds shall be
344 required to develop a collaborative plan that includes, but is not
345 limited to, participation of the local extension service, Head
346 Start, health department, human services and other agencies as
347 deemed by the advisory board in the local development plan.
348 Programs seeking funds under this act shall be required to provide
349 a twenty-five percent (25%) match. Programs shall be housed in
350 parent/family resource centers developed around existing DHS
351 Families First criteria and the State Department of Education
352 Parent/Family Center guidelines. No such parent/family education
353 program shall be established unless it is licensed by the State
354 Department of Health pursuant to Section 43-20-1 et seq., if
355 applicable. Parent education programs shall have a broad-based
356 community advisory board including, but not limited to,
357 representatives of the following categories: parents, local
358 school districts' parent education programs staff, DHS-Division of
359 Family and Children's Services, Head Start/private child care
360 providers, State Department of Education and State Department of
361 Health.

362 (4) The Department of Human Services shall allocate to the
363 maximum extent possible federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
364 Families (TANF) funds for eligible recipients for the
365 parent/family education programs authorized under this section,
366 and shall transfer as necessary TANF funds to the Child Care
367 Development Block Grant Fund or the Social Services Block Grant
368 Fund for those program services that cannot be funded from TANF
369 directly, subject to specific appropriation therefor by the
370 Legislature. The Department of Human Services shall contract with
371 the Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension Service as
372 is necessary to allocate the federal funds specified under

373 subsection (4) to the programs and services to be provided.

374 (5) The Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension
375 Service may accept any funds, public or private, made available to
376 it for the program. The funds shall be used to award grants to
377 the participating parent/family education services programs for
378 the support of such programs. A parent/family education services
379 program may use any available funding to support the
380 administration of the program.

381 (6) The Mississippi State University Cooperative Extension
382 Service shall develop an annual reporting process to inform the
383 Legislature, local school district personnel and the general
384 public as to all programs funded under this section:

385 (a) Number of children and families served;

386 (b) Number of parent educators and other personnel,
387 qualifications, training related to home visit programs and
388 parent/family resource center establishment and experience levels;

389 (c) Annual program cost, with identification by name
390 and amount of the source of funds for each program;

391 (d) Annual budget, administrative costs and other
392 pertinent fiscal information;

393 (e) Annual salary and fringe benefit information for
394 each employee in the program;

395 (f) Annual cost of materials, training and other
396 instructional costs related to the program;

397 (g) Annual cost of program on a per-family basis;

398 (h) Other information as directed by the Mississippi
399 State University Cooperative Extension Service;

400 (i) Advisory board members' names and titles; and

401 (j) Analysis of this program's impact on Grades K-3 as
402 indicated in an independent evaluation.

403 (7) This section shall stand repealed from and after July 1,
404 2005.

405 SECTION 5. (1) As used in this act, the term "four-year

406 old" means any child age 4 on or before September 1.

407 (2) To ensure that all four-year olds have access to quality
408 educational services, the Legislature hereby finds and declares
409 that:

410 (a) Parents have the primary duty to educate their
411 young preschool children.

412 (b) The State of Mississippi can assist parents in
413 their role as the primary caregivers and educators by providing
414 services for a full-year, full-day pre-kindergarten program that
415 addresses instructional, social and emotional needs for four-year
416 old children.

417 (3) The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the
418 Department of Human Services, shall develop and implement a
419 voluntary program to provide services for a full-year, full-day
420 pre-kindergarten program that addresses the cognitive, social and
421 emotional needs of four-year old children, subject to the
422 following conditions and provisions:

423 (a) The program shall be voluntary.

424 (b) The State Board of Education, the Department of
425 Human Services, the State Board of Health, the Mississippi Head
426 Start Association and the public and private daycare centers shall
427 jointly develop criteria for (i) the enrollment of four-year old
428 children who have predicted significant readiness deficiencies,
429 (ii) the enrollment of four-year old children who do not have
430 predicted significant readiness deficiencies, but who otherwise do
431 not have available to them services for four-year olds, (iii) the
432 qualifications of personnel employed to serve the said children,
433 (iv) pupil/teacher ratio, (v) health and safety standards, (vi)
434 hours of operation of such programs, and (vii) provide for the
435 transportation of said children.

436 (c) The core curriculum of all such four-year old
437 programs will meet or exceed the State Department of Education's
438 Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum benchmarks. The curriculum shall

439 encompass language development, mathematics language development:
440 math concepts, social/emotional development and physical
441 development (fine, gross, sensory motor development).

442 (d) To ensure coordination, the school district shall
443 review available educational resources, programs and services in
444 order to avoid duplication of public services.

445 (4) The State Board of Education shall determine a process
446 for interested school districts to apply for grant funds in order
447 to participate in such four-year old programs, and school
448 districts may enter into subcontracts with licensed child care
449 facilities or Head Start programs to provide services under this
450 program.

451 (5) The Department of Human Services shall allocate to the
452 maximum extent possible federal Temporary Assistance for Needy
453 Families (TANF) funds for eligible recipients for the
454 pre-kindergarten programs authorized under this section, and shall
455 transfer as necessary TANF funds to the Child Care Development
456 Block Grant Fund or the Social Services Block Grant Fund for those
457 program services that cannot be funded from TANF directly, subject
458 to specific appropriation therefor by the Legislature. The
459 Department of Human Services shall contract with the State Board
460 of Education as is necessary to allocate the federal funds
461 specified herein to the programs and services to be provided.

462 (6) The State Board of Education may accept any funds,
463 public or private, made available to it for the pre-kindergarten
464 program. Beginning in fiscal year 2001, the State Board of
465 Education shall award grants for not less than one (1) program in
466 each Mississippi congressional district and not more than
467 twenty-five (25) programs in all, and in subsequent years may
468 award additional program grants subject to the availability of
469 funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature.
470 These programs shall be awarded to target school districts (a)
471 which are in need of an instructional program for four-year old

472 children who have predicted significant readiness deficiencies, or
473 (b) with four-year old children who do not have predicted
474 significant readiness deficiencies, but who otherwise do not have
475 such services available to them. The State Department of
476 Education will annually determine a cost-per-child rate which
477 shall be used in funding a targeted program, and shall collaborate
478 with the Department of Human Services in the determination of fair
479 market rates for subsidized child care. The targeted districts
480 will be responsible for blending services for children to avoid
481 duplication in the areas of transportation, personnel, training of
482 personnel, facilities and child nutrition.

483 (7) The State Board of Education shall report to the
484 Legislature on July 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, on the
485 desirability of expanding and permanently establishing the
486 program.

487 (8) This section shall stand repealed from and after July 1,
488 2005.

489 SECTION 6. Section 43-20-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
490 amended as follows:

491 43-20-5. When used in this chapter, the following words
492 shall have the following meanings:

493 (a) "Child care facility" means a place which provides
494 shelter and personal care for six (6) or more children who are not
495 related within the third degree computed according to the civil
496 law to the operator and who are under thirteen (13) years of age,
497 for any part of the 24-hour day, whether such place be organized
498 or operated for profit or not. The term "child care facility"
499 includes day nurseries, day care centers and any other facility
500 that falls within the scope of the definitions set forth above,
501 regardless of auspices. Child care facilities which operate for
502 no more than two (2) days a week, whose primary purpose is to
503 provide respite for the caregiver or temporary care during other
504 scheduled or related activities and organized programs which

505 operate for three (3) or less weeks per year such as, but not
506 limited to, vacation bible schools and scout day camps, are
507 exempt. Also exempted from this chapter is any child residential
508 home as defined in, and in compliance with the provisions of,
509 Section 43-16-3(b) et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972. Also
510 exempted from this chapter is any elementary, including
511 kindergarten, and/or secondary school system, accredited by the
512 Mississippi State Department of Education, the Southern
513 Association of Colleges and Schools or the Mississippi Private
514 School Education Association and any Head Start program operating
515 in conjunction with an elementary school system, whether it be
516 public, private or parochial, whose primary purpose is a
517 structured school or school readiness program. Provided, however,
518 that from and after July 1, 2000, no new pre-kindergarten program
519 shall be established unless it is licensed by the State Department
520 of Health pursuant to this chapter. Also exempted is any
521 membership organization affiliated with a national organization
522 which charges only a nominal annual membership fee, does not
523 receive monthly, weekly or daily payments for services, and is
524 certified by its national association as being in compliance with
525 the association's minimum standards and procedures, including, but
526 not limited to, the Boys and Girls Club of America, and the YMCA.

527 All other preschool child care programs and/or extended day
528 school programs must meet requirements set forth in this chapter.

529 SECTION 7. Section 37-159-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
530 amended as follows:[JU1]

531 37-159-3. (1) There is established the "Critical Needs
532 Teacher Scholarship Program," the purpose of which is to attract
533 qualified teachers to those geographical areas of the state where
534 there exists a critical shortage of teachers by awarding full
535 scholarships to persons declaring an intention to serve in the
536 teaching field who actually render service to the state while
537 possessing an appropriate teaching license.

538 (2) Any individual who is enrolled in or accepted for
539 enrollment at a baccalaureate degree-granting institution of
540 higher learning whose teacher education program is approved by the
541 State Board of Education or at an accredited, nonprofit community
542 or junior college in the State of Mississippi who expresses in
543 writing an intention to teach in a geographical area of the state
544 in which there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as
545 designated by the State Board of Education, shall be eligible for
546 a financial scholarship to be applied toward the costs of the
547 individual's college education. Any individual who is enrolled in
548 or accepted for enrollment at a baccalaureate or master's
549 degree-granting institution of higher learning whose early
550 education teacher program is approved by the State Board of
551 Education or whose program for a bachelor of science degree with
552 child development emphasis is approved by the American Association
553 of Family and Consumer Sciences, or at a public or accredited
554 nonprofit community or junior college in the State of Mississippi,
555 who expresses in writing an intention to teach or otherwise be
556 employed in a licensed child care facility located in a
557 geographical area of the state in which there exists a critical
558 shortage of teachers, shall also be eligible for a financial
559 scholarship to be applied toward the costs of the individual's
560 college education, subject to the availability of nonstate funds
561 for the payment of such costs. The annual amount of the award
562 shall be equal to the total cost for tuition, room and meals,
563 books, materials and fees at the college or university in which
564 the student is enrolled, not to exceed an amount equal to the
565 highest total cost of tuition, room and meals, books, materials
566 and fees assessed by a state institution of higher learning during
567 that school year. Awards made to nonresidents of the state shall
568 not include any amount assessed by the college or university for
569 out-of-state tuition.

570 (3) Awards granted under the Critical Needs Teacher

571 Scholarship Program shall be available to both full-time and
572 part-time students. Students enrolling on a full-time basis may
573 receive a maximum of four (4) annual awards. The maximum number
574 of awards that may be made to students attending school on a
575 part-time basis, and the maximum time period for part-time
576 students to complete the number of academic hours necessary to
577 obtain a baccalaureate degree in education, shall be established
578 by rules and regulations jointly promulgated by the Board of
579 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the State
580 Board of Education. Critical Needs Teacher Scholarships shall not
581 be based upon an applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

582 (4) Except in those cases where employment positions may not
583 be available upon completion of licensure requirements, at the
584 beginning of the first school year in which a recipient of a
585 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship is eligible for employment as a
586 licensed teacher, that person shall begin to render service as a
587 licensed teacher in a public school district or in a licensed
588 child care facility, as is applicable, in a geographical area of
589 the state where there is a critical shortage of teachers, as
590 approved by the State Board of Education. Any person who received
591 four (4) annual awards, or the equivalent of four (4) annual
592 awards, shall render three (3) years' service as a licensed
593 teacher. Any person who received fewer than four (4) annual
594 awards, or the equivalent of four (4) annual awards, shall render
595 one (1) year's service as a licensed teacher for each year that
596 the person received a full-time student scholarship, or for the
597 number of academic hours equivalent to one (1) school year, as
598 determined by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
599 Higher Learning, which a part-time student received a scholarship.

600 (5) Any person failing to complete a program of study which
601 will enable that person to become a licensed teacher shall become
602 liable immediately to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
603 of Higher Learning for the sum of all Critical Needs Teacher

604 Scholarship awards made to that person, plus interest accruing at
605 the current Stafford Loan rate at the time the person abrogates
606 his participation in the program. Any person failing to complete
607 his teaching obligation, as required under subsection (4) of this
608 section, shall become liable immediately to the board for the sum
609 of all scholarship awards made to that person less the
610 corresponding amount of any awards for which service has been
611 rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate
612 at the time the person discontinues his service, except in the
613 case of a deferral of debt for cause by the State Board of
614 Education when there is no employment position immediately
615 available upon a teacher's completion of licensure requirements.
616 After the period of such deferral, such person shall begin or
617 resume teaching duties as required under subsection (4) or shall
618 become liable to the board under this subsection. If a claim for
619 payment under this subsection is placed in the hands of an
620 attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an
621 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

622 (6) The obligations made by the recipient of a Critical
623 Needs Teacher Scholarship award shall not be voidable by reason of
624 the age of the student at the time of receiving the scholarship.

625 (7) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
626 Learning and the State Board of Education shall jointly promulgate
627 rules and regulations necessary for the proper administration of
628 the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program. The Board of
629 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall be the
630 administering agency of the program.

631 (8) If insufficient funds are available to fully fund
632 scholarship awards to all eligible students, the Board of Trustees
633 of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall make the awards to
634 first-time students on a first-come, first-served basis; however,
635 priority consideration shall be given to persons previously
636 receiving awards under the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship

637 Program.

638 (9) All funds received by the Board of Trustees of State
639 Institutions of Higher Learning from the repayment of scholarship
640 awards by program participants shall be deposited in the
641 Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

642 SECTION 8. Section 37-3-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
643 amended as follows:

644 37-3-2. (1) There is hereby established within the State
645 Department of Education the Commission on Teacher and
646 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and
647 Development. It shall be the purpose and duty of the commission
648 to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding
649 standards for the certification and licensure and continuing
650 professional development of those who teach or perform tasks of an
651 educational nature in the public schools of Mississippi.

652 (2) The commission shall be composed of fifteen (15)
653 qualified members. The membership of the commission shall be
654 composed of the following members to be appointed three (3) from
655 each congressional district: four (4) classroom teachers; three
656 (3) school administrators; one (1) representative of schools of
657 education of institutions of higher learning located within the
658 state to be recommended by the Board of Trustees of State
659 Institutions of Higher Learning; one (1) representative from the
660 schools of education of independent institutions of higher
661 learning to be recommended by the Board of the Mississippi
662 Association of Independent Colleges; one (1) representative from
663 public community and junior colleges located within the state to
664 be recommended by the State Board for Community and Junior
665 Colleges; one (1) local school board member; and four (4) lay
666 persons. All appointments shall be made by the State Board of
667 Education after consultation with the State Superintendent of
668 Public Education. The first appointments by the State Board of
669 Education shall be made as follows: five (5) members shall be

670 appointed for a term of one (1) year; five (5) members shall be
671 appointed for a term of two (2) years; and five (5) members shall
672 be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Thereafter, all
673 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years.

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

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

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

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

691 (b) Recommend to the State Board of Education each year
692 approval or disapproval of each educator preparation program in
693 the state;

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

697 (d) Establish, subject to the approval of the State
698 Board of Education, standards for the renewal of teacher licenses
699 in all fields;

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

703 (f) Review all existing requirements for certification
704 and licensure;

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

707 (h) Prepare reports from time to time on current
708 practices and issues in the general area of teacher education and
709 certification and licensure;

710 (i) Hold hearings concerning standards for teachers'
711 and administrators' education and certification and licensure with
712 approval of the State Board of Education;

713 (j) Hire expert consultants with approval of the State
714 Board of Education;

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

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

720 (6) (a) **Standard License - Approved Program Route.** An
721 educator entering the school system of Mississippi for the first
722 time and meeting all requirements as established by the State
723 Board of Education shall be granted a standard five-year license.

724 Persons who possess two (2) years of classroom experience as an
725 assistant teacher or who have taught for one (1) year in an
726 accredited public or private school shall be allowed to fulfill
727 student teaching requirements under the supervision of a qualified
728 participating teacher approved by an accredited college of
729 education. The local school district in which the assistant
730 teacher is employed shall compensate such assistant teachers at
731 the required salary level during the period of time such
732 individual is completing student teaching requirements.

733 Applicants for a standard license shall submit to the department:

734 (i) An application on a department form;

735 (ii) An official transcript of completion of a

736 teacher education program or bachelor of science degree with child
737 development emphasis from a program accredited by the American
738 Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) approved by
739 the department or a nationally accredited program, subject to the
740 following: Licensure to teach in Mississippi pre-kindergarten
741 through kindergarten classrooms shall require completion of a
742 teacher education program or bachelor of science degree with child
743 development emphasis from a program accredited with the American
744 Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). Licensure to
745 teach in Mississippi kindergarten through Grade 4 shall require
746 the completion of an interdisciplinary program of studies.
747 Licenses for Grades 4 through 8 shall require the completion of an
748 interdisciplinary program of studies with two (2) or more areas of
749 concentration. Licensure to teach in Mississippi Grades 7 through
750 12 shall require a major in an academic field other than
751 education, or a combination of disciplines other than education.
752 Students preparing to teach a subject shall complete a major in
753 the respective subject discipline. All applicants for standard
754 licensure shall demonstrate that such person's college preparation
755 in those fields was in accordance with the standards set forth by
756 the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
757 (NCATE) or the National Association of State Directors of Teacher
758 Education and Certification (NASDTEC) or in the case of
759 certification to teach in pre-kindergarten through kindergarten
760 classrooms, the American Association of Family and Consumer
761 Sciences (AAFCS);

762 (iii) A copy of test scores evidencing
763 satisfactory completion of nationally administered examinations of
764 achievement, such as the Educational Testing Service's teacher
765 testing examinations. The State Board of Education is directed to
766 study and develop a report on the progress of the nationally
767 administered examination of achievement for students in an
768 approved teacher education program. This report shall develop

769 data for the period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30,
770 1998. The state board, with the assistance of the commission,
771 shall prepare the results of the study and make a report thereon
772 to the Education Committees of the Legislature utilizing the
773 following components:

- 774 1. Collect data on entrance and exit
775 performance of students in a teacher education program;
- 776 2. Report on student performance as compared
777 to the required examination score;
- 778 3. Develop and make recommendations on
779 necessary requirement revisions as may be appropriate based on
780 student performance results;
- 781 4. Include other such formats as may best
782 describe the profile of the student examination results; and
783 (iv) Any other document required by the State
784 Board of Education.

785 (b) **Standard License - Alternate Teaching Route.**

786 Applicants for a standard license-alternate teaching route shall
787 submit to the department:

- 788 (i) An application on a department form;
- 789 (ii) An official transcript evidencing a bachelors
790 degree from an accredited institution of higher learning;
- 791 (iii) A copy of test scores evidencing
792 satisfactory completion of an examination of achievement specified
793 by the commission and approved by the State Board of Education;
- 794 (iv) An official transcript evidencing appropriate
795 credit hours or a copy of test scores evidencing successful
796 completion of tests as required by the State Board of Education;
797 and
798 (v) Any other document required by the State Board
799 of Education.

800 A Standard License-Approved Program Route and a Standard
801 License-Alternate Teaching Route shall be issued for a five-year

802 period, and may be renewed. Recognizing teaching as a profession,
803 a hiring preference shall be granted to persons holding a Standard
804 License-Approved Program Route or Standard License-Alternate
805 Teaching Route over persons holding any other license.

806 (c) **Special License - Expert Citizen.** In order to
807 allow a school district to offer specialized or technical courses,
808 the State Department of Education, in accordance with rules and
809 regulations established by the State Board of Education, may grant
810 a one-year expert citizen-teacher license to local business or
811 other professional personnel to teach in a public school or
812 nonpublic school accredited or approved by the state. Such person
813 may begin teaching upon his employment by the local school board
814 and licensure by the Mississippi Department of Education. The
815 board shall adopt rules and regulations to administer the expert
816 citizen-teacher license. A special license-expert citizen may be
817 renewed in accordance with the established rules and regulations
818 of the State Department of Education.

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

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

835 of licensed personnel in any single school.

836 (f) In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
837 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education may, in its
838 discretion, exempt such school district from any restrictions
839 in paragraph (e) relating to the employment of nonlicensed
840 teaching personnel.

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

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

851 (b) **Administrator License - Entry Level.** Those
852 educators holding administrative endorsement and having met the
853 department's qualifications to be eligible for employment in a
854 Mississippi school district. Administrator license - entry level
855 shall be issued for a five-year period and shall be nonrenewable.

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

859 (d) **Administrator License - Alternate Route.** The board
860 may establish an alternate route for licensing administrative
861 personnel. Such alternate route for administrative licensure
862 shall be available for persons holding, but not limited to, a
863 master of business administration degree, a master of public
864 administration degree or a master of public planning and policy
865 degree from an accredited college or university, with five (5)
866 years of administrative or supervisory experience. Successful
867 completion of the requirements of alternate route licensure for

868 administrators shall qualify the person for a standard
869 administrator license.

870 Beginning with the 1997-1998 school year, individuals seeking
871 school administrator licensure under paragraph (b), (c) or (d)
872 shall successfully complete a training program and an assessment
873 process prescribed by the State Board of Education. Applicants
874 seeking school administrator licensure prior to June 30, 1997, and
875 completing all requirements for provisional or standard
876 administrator certification and who have never practiced, shall be
877 exempt from taking the Mississippi Assessment Battery Phase I.
878 Applicants seeking school administrator licensure during the
879 period beginning July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998, shall
880 participate in the Mississippi Assessment Battery, and upon
881 request of the applicant, the department shall reimburse the
882 applicant for the cost of the assessment process required. After
883 June 30, 1998, all applicants for school administrator licensure
884 shall meet all requirements prescribed by the department under
885 paragraph (b), (c) or (d), and the cost of the assessment process
886 required shall be paid by the applicant.

887 (8) **Reciprocity.** (a) The department shall grant a standard
888 license to any individual who possesses a valid standard license
889 from another state and has a minimum of two (2) years of full-time
890 teaching or administrator experience.

891 (b) The department shall grant a nonrenewable special
892 license to any individual who possesses a credential which is less
893 than a standard license or certification from another state, or
894 who possesses a standard license from another state but has less
895 than two (2) years of full-time teaching or administration
896 experience. Such special license shall be valid for the current
897 school year plus one (1) additional school year to expire on June
898 30 of the second year, not to exceed a total period of twenty-four
899 (24) months, during which time the applicant shall be required to
900 complete the requirements for a standard license in Mississippi.

901 (9) **Renewal and Reinstatement of Licenses.** The State Board
902 of Education is authorized to establish rules and regulations for
903 the renewal and reinstatement of educator and administrator
904 licenses.

905 (10) All controversies involving the issuance, revocation,
906 suspension or any change whatsoever in the licensure of an
907 educator required to hold a license shall be initially heard in a
908 hearing de novo, by the commission or by a subcommittee
909 established by the commission and composed of commission members
910 for the purpose of holding hearings. Any complaint seeking the
911 denial of issuance, revocation or suspension of a license shall be
912 by sworn affidavit filed with the Commission of Teacher and
913 Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and
914 Development. The decision thereon by the commission or its
915 subcommittee shall be final, unless the aggrieved party shall
916 appeal to the State Board of Education, within ten (10) days, of
917 the decision of the committee or its subcommittee. An appeal to
918 the State Board of Education shall be on the record previously
919 made before the commission or its subcommittee unless otherwise
920 provided by rules and regulations adopted by the board. The State
921 Board of Education in its authority may reverse, or remand with
922 instructions, the decision of the committee or its subcommittee.
923 The decision of the State Board of Education shall be final.

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

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

929 (b) Has a physical, emotional or mental disability that
930 renders the applicant unfit to perform the duties authorized by
931 the license, as certified by a licensed psychologist or
932 psychiatrist;

933 (c) Is actively addicted to or actively dependent on

934 alcohol or other habit-forming drugs or is a habitual user of
935 narcotics, barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other
936 drugs having similar effect, at the time of application for a
937 license;

938 (d) Revocation of a certificate or license by another
939 state;

940 (e) Committed fraud or deceit in securing or attempting
941 to secure such certification and license;

942 (f) Fails or refuses to furnish reasonable evidence of
943 identification;

944 (g) Has been convicted, has pled guilty or entered a
945 plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as defined by federal or
946 state law; or

947 (h) Has been convicted, has pled guilty or entered a
948 plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense as defined by federal or
949 state law.

950 (12) The State Board of Education, acting on the
951 recommendation of the commission, may revoke or suspend any
952 teacher or administrator license for specified periods of time for
953 one or more of the following:

954 (a) Breach of contract or abandonment of employment may
955 result in the suspension of the license for one (1) school year as
956 provided in Section 37-9-57, Mississippi Code of 1972;

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

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

964 (d) Has been convicted, has pled guilty or entered a
965 plea of nolo contendere to a felony, as defined by federal or
966 state law;

967 (e) Has been convicted, has pled guilty or entered a
968 plea of nolo contendere to a sex offense, as defined by federal or
969 state law; or

970 (f) Knowingly and willfully committing any of the acts
971 affecting validity of mandatory uniform test results as provided
972 in Section 37-16-4(1), Mississippi Code of 1972.

973 (13) (a) Dismissal or suspension of a licensed employee by
974 a local school board pursuant to Section 37-9-59, Mississippi Code
975 of 1972, may result in the suspension or revocation of a license
976 for a length of time which shall be determined by the commission
977 and based upon the severity of the offense.

978 (b) Any offense committed or attempted in any other
979 state shall result in the same penalty as if committed or
980 attempted in this state.

981 (c) A person may voluntarily surrender a license. The
982 surrender of such license may result in the commission
983 recommending any of the above penalties without the necessity of a
984 hearing. However, any such license which has voluntarily been
985 surrendered by a licensed employee may be reinstated by a
986 unanimous vote of all members of the commission.

987 (14) A person whose license has been suspended on any
988 grounds except criminal grounds may petition for reinstatement of
989 the license after one (1) year from the date of suspension, or
990 after one-half (1/2) of the suspended time has lapsed, whichever
991 is greater. A license suspended on the criminal grounds may be
992 reinstated upon petition to the commission filed after expiration
993 of the sentence and parole or probationary period imposed upon
994 conviction. A revoked license may be reinstated upon satisfactory
995 showing of evidence of rehabilitation. The commission shall
996 require all who petition for reinstatement to furnish evidence
997 satisfactory to the commission of good character, good mental,
998 emotional and physical health and such other evidence as the
999 commission may deem necessary to establish the petitioner's

1000 rehabilitation and fitness to perform the duties authorized by the
1001 license.

1002 (15) Reporting procedures and hearing procedures for dealing
1003 with infractions under this section shall be promulgated by the
1004 commission, subject to the approval of the State Board of
1005 Education. The revocation or suspension of a license shall be
1006 effected at the time indicated on the notice of suspension or
1007 revocation. The commission shall immediately notify the
1008 superintendent of the school district or school board where the
1009 teacher or administrator is employed of any disciplinary action
1010 and also notify the teacher or administrator of such revocation or
1011 suspension and shall maintain records of action taken. The State
1012 Board of Education may reverse or remand with instructions any
1013 decision of the commission regarding a petition for reinstatement
1014 of a license, and any such decision of the State Board of
1015 Education shall be final.

1016 (16) An appeal from the action of the State Board of
1017 Education in denying an application, revoking or suspending a
1018 license or otherwise disciplining any person under the provisions
1019 of this section, shall be filed in the Chancery Court of the First
1020 Judicial District of Hinds County on the record made, including a
1021 verbatim transcript of the testimony at the hearing. The appeal
1022 shall be filed within thirty (30) days after notification of the
1023 action of the board is mailed or served and the proceedings in
1024 chancery court shall be conducted as other matters coming before
1025 the court. The appeal shall be perfected upon filing notice of
1026 the appeal and by the prepayment of all costs, including the cost
1027 of preparation of the record of the proceedings by the State Board
1028 of Education, and the filing of a bond in the sum of Two Hundred
1029 Dollars (\$200.00) conditioned that if the action of the board be
1030 affirmed by the chancery court, the applicant or license holder
1031 shall pay the costs of the appeal and the action of the chancery
1032 court.

1033 (17) All such programs, rules, regulations, standards and
1034 criteria recommended or authorized by the commission shall become
1035 effective upon approval by the State Board of Education as
1036 designated by appropriate orders entered upon the minutes thereof.

1037 (18) The granting of a license shall not be deemed a
1038 property right nor a guarantee of employment in any public school
1039 district. A license is a privilege indicating minimal eligibility
1040 for teaching in the public schools of Mississippi. This section
1041 shall in no way alter or abridge the authority of local school
1042 districts to require greater qualifications or standards of
1043 performance as a prerequisite of initial or continued employment
1044 in such districts.

1045 (19) In addition to the reasons specified in subsection (8)
1046 of this section, the board shall be authorized to suspend the
1047 license of any licensee for being out of compliance with an order
1048 for support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for
1049 suspension of a license for being out of compliance with an order
1050 for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement
1051 of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any
1052 fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended
1053 for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or
1054 93-11-163, as the case may be. Actions taken by the board in
1055 suspending a license when required by Section 93-11-157 or
1056 93-11-163 are not actions from which an appeal may be taken under
1057 this section. Any appeal of a license suspension that is required
1058 by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 shall be taken in accordance
1059 with the appeal procedure specified in Section 93-11-157 or
1060 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than the procedure specified
1061 in this section. If there is any conflict between any provision
1062 of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision of this
1063 chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the
1064 case may be, shall control.

1065 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from

1066 and after July 1, 2000.