

By: Representative Flaggs

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 18

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-151-77, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO OF 18:1 FOR
3 KINDERGARTEN CLASSES UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI ADEQUATE EDUCATION
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-151-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-151-77. To qualify for funds provided in this chapter,
9 each school district shall not exceed a pupil-teacher ratio based
10 on enrollment in kindergarten equal to 18:1 and in Grades 1, 2, 3
11 and 4 equal to 27:1.

12 For Grades * * * 5 through 12, the pupil-teacher ratio shall
13 be determined based on appropriate accreditation standards
14 developed by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation.

15 Any local district may apply to the State Board of Education
16 for approval of a waiver to this section by submitting and
17 justifying an alternative educational program to serve the needs
18 of enrollment in * * * kindergarten and Grades 1 through 4. The
19 State Board of Education shall approve or disapprove of such
20 waiver forty-five (45) days after receipt of such application. If
21 a school district violates the provisions of this section, the
22 state aid for the ensuing fiscal year to such school district
23 shall be reduced by the percentage variance that the actual
24 pupil-teacher ratios in such school district has to the required
25 pupil-teacher ratios mandated in this section. * * *

26 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the State Board of
27 Education is authorized to waive the pupil-teacher requirements
28 specified in this section upon a finding that a good faith effort



29 is being made by the school district concerned to comply with the
30 ratio provisions but that for lack of classroom space which was
31 beyond its control, it is physically impossible for the district
32 to comply, and the cost of temporary classroom space cannot be
33 justified. In the event any school district meets Level 4 or 5
34 accreditation standards, the State Board of Education * * *, in
35 its discretion, may exempt such school district from the maximum
36 pupil-teacher ratio in kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4
37 prescribed in this section.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2002.

