

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2035

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DIRECT THE STATE BOARD TO USE CERTAIN FEDERAL CRITERIA AND  
3 CATEGORIES FOR REPORTING THE PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL  
4 DISTRICTS UNDER THE "MISSISSIPPI REPORT CARD"; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-3-53. Each school year, the State Board of Education,  
10 acting through the Office of Educational Accountability, shall  
11 develop a public school reporting system, or "Mississippi Report  
12 Card," on the performance of students and schools at the local,  
13 district and state level, in conformity with federal law. The  
14 Mississippi Report Card shall be a school-by-school report card  
15 for parents, as well as on the Internet, for all public schools.  
16 The Mississippi Report Card shall use the following categories for  
17 designating the performance of schools and school districts:  
18 Exemplary, Recognized, Acceptable, Below Average and  
19 Low-Performing. These report cards shall include math and reading  
20 results disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, poverty, students with  
21 disabilities as compared to nondisabled students, and English  
22 proficiency. These report cards shall be integrated with federal  
23 report card requirements where possible. In developing the report  
24 card, the Office of Educational Accountability shall collect  
25 school, district and state level student achievement data in the  
26 appropriate grades as designated by the State Board of Education  
27 in all core subjects, and compare the data with national standards  
28 to identify students' strengths and weaknesses. The Mississippi



29 Report Card shall provide more than reports to parents on the  
30 level at which their children are performing; the report shall  
31 provide clear and comparable public information on the level at  
32 which schools, school districts and the state public education  
33 system are performing. The Office of Educational Accountability  
34 shall encourage local school districts and the general public to  
35 use Mississippi Report Card information along with local  
36 individual student data to assess the quality of instructional  
37 programs and the performance of schools and to plan and implement  
38 programs of instructional improvement.

39 Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year, the Mississippi  
40 Report Card shall include information, as compiled by the Office  
41 of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, which demonstrates  
42 clearly the absenteeism and dropout rates in each school district  
43 and the state and whether those rates reflect a positive or  
44 negative change from the same information as reported in the  
45 previous year's Mississippi Report Card.

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

