

By: Representative Barnett (92nd)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1008
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-43-24, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PLACE TEXTBOOK, EQUIPMENT
3 AND SCHOOL SUPPLY PROCUREMENT ORDERS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE
4 FISCAL YEAR FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING CERTAIN SCHOOLS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-43-24, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-43-24. (1) This section shall be referred to and may be
10 cited as the "Timely Acquisition of Braille and Large Print
11 Textbooks Act of 2002."

12 (2) The State Department of Education is hereby authorized
13 and directed to place textbook procurement orders for visually
14 impaired and hearing impaired students in the schools of this
15 state prior to the beginning of the fiscal year for which the
16 expenditure for such order has been authorized by the Legislature.
17 After June 1 of any year, the State Department of Education may
18 order additional books, as needed. In addition, the State
19 Department of Education is authorized and directed to place
20 textbook, equipment and school supply procurement orders for
21 students attending the state-supported schools administered by the
22 State Board of Education before the beginning of the fiscal year
23 for which the expenditure for the order has been authorized by the
24 Legislature. The department shall insure that the appropriate
25 procedures for textbook procurement are followed according to
26 state law and board policy as described in the Textbook
27 Administration Handbook.



28 **SECTION 2.** Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, the
29 State Board of Education shall require that any textbook that
30 includes the teaching of evolution in its contents shall have the
31 following language inserted on the inside front cover of those
32 textbooks:

33 "The word 'theory' has many meanings:
34 systematically organized knowledge, abstract reasoning,
35 a speculative idea or plan, or a systematic statement of
36 principles. Scientific theories are based on both
37 observations of the natural world and assumptions about
38 the natural world. They are always subject to change in
39 view of new and confirmed observations.

40 This textbook discusses evolution, a controversial
41 theory some scientists present as a scientific
42 explanation for the origin of living things. No one was
43 present when life first appeared on earth. Therefore,
44 any statement about life's origins should be considered
45 a theory.

46 Evolution refers to the unproven belief that
47 random, undirected forces produced living things. There
48 are many unanswered questions about the origin of life
49 that are not mentioned in your textbook, including: the
50 major groups of animals suddenly appear in the fossil
51 record (known as the Cambrian Explosion), no new major
52 groups of other living things appeared in the fossil
53 record, major groups of plants and animals have no
54 transitional forms in the fossil record, and all living
55 things possess a complete and complex set of
56 instructions for building a living body. Study hard and
57 keep an open mind."

58 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
59 and after July 1, 2003.

