

By: Representative Pierce

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 759

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EXPEND  
3 FEDERAL FUNDS FOR TRAINING EXPENSES AND SALARY INCENTIVES FOR  
4 LICENSED TEACHERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 37-1-3. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
9 and regulations and set standards and policies for the  
10 organization, operation, management, planning, budgeting and  
11 programs of the State Department of Education.

12 (a) The board is directed to identify all functions of  
13 the department that contribute to or comprise a part of the state  
14 system of educational accountability and to establish and maintain  
15 within the department the necessary organizational structure,  
16 policies and procedures for effectively coordinating such  
17 functions. Such policies and procedures shall clearly fix and  
18 delineate responsibilities for various aspects of the system and  
19 for overall coordination of the total system and its effective  
20 management.

21 (b) The board shall establish and maintain a  
22 system-wide plan of performance, policy and directions of public  
23 education not otherwise provided for.

24 (c) The board shall effectively use the personnel and  
25 resources of the department to enhance technical assistance to  
26 school districts in instruction and management therein.

27 (d) The board shall establish and maintain a central  
28 budget policy.

29           (e) The board shall establish and maintain within the  
30 State Department of Education a central management capacity under  
31 the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Education.

32           (f) The board, with recommendations from the  
33 superintendent, shall design and maintain a five-year plan and  
34 program for educational improvement that shall set forth  
35 objectives for system performance and development and be the basis  
36 for budget requests and legislative initiatives.

37           (2) (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt and  
38 maintain a curriculum and a course of study to be used in the  
39 public schools that is designed to prepare the state's children  
40 and youth to be productive, informed, creative citizens, workers  
41 and leaders, and it shall regulate all matters arising in the  
42 practical administration of the school system not otherwise  
43 provided for.

44           (b) Before the 1999-2000 school year, the State Board  
45 of Education shall develop personal living and finances objectives  
46 that focus on money management skills for individuals and families  
47 for appropriate, existing courses at the secondary level. The  
48 objectives must require the teaching of those skills necessary to  
49 handle personal business and finances and must include instruction  
50 in the following:

51                   (i) Opening a bank account and assessing the  
52 quality of a bank's services;

53                   (ii) Balancing a checkbook;

54                   (iii) Managing debt, including retail and credit  
55 card debt;

56                   (iv) Completing a loan application;

57                   (v) The implications of an inheritance;

58                   (vi) The basics of personal insurance policies;

59                   (vii) Consumer rights and responsibilities;

60                   (viii) Dealing with salesmen and merchants;

61                   (ix) Computing state and federal income taxes;

- 62 (x) Local tax assessments;
- 63 (xi) Computing interest rates by various
- 64 mechanisms;
- 65 (xii) Understanding simple contracts; and
- 66 (xiii) Contesting an incorrect billing statement.

67 (3) The State Board of Education shall have authority to

68 expend any available federal funds, or any other funds expressly

69 designated, to pay training, educational expenses, salary

70 incentives and salary supplements to licensed teachers employed in

71 local school districts or schools, administered by the State Board

72 of Education. Such incentive payments shall not be considered

73 part of a school district's local supplement as defined in Section

74 37-151-5(o), nor shall the incentives be considered part of the

75 local supplement paid to an individual teacher for the purposes of

76 Section 37-19-7(1). MAEP funds or any other state funds shall not

77 be used to provide such incentives unless specifically authorized

78 by law.

79 (4) The State Board of Education shall through its actions

80 seek to implement the policies set forth in Section 37-1-2.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

82 and after July 1, 2005.