

By: Representatives Chism, Robinson (84th)

To: Education; County Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 1030

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-57-105, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE TAXING AUTHORITY TO VETO A SCHOOL BOARD'S REQUEST
3 FOR AN INCREASE IN THE AD VALOREM TAX DOLLARS UP TO FOUR PERCENT;
4 TO REQUIRE A DIRECT REFERENDUM FOR AN INCREASE IN AD VALOREM TAX
5 DOLLARS OVER SEVEN PERCENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-57-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-57-105. (1) In addition to the taxes levied under
10 Section 37-57-1, the levying authority for the school district, as
11 defined in Section 37-57-1, upon receipt of a certified copy of an
12 order adopted by the school board of the school district
13 requesting an ad valorem tax effort in dollars for the support of
14 the school district, shall, at the same time and in the same
15 manner as other ad valorem taxes are levied, levy an annual ad
16 valorem tax in the amount fixed in such order upon all of the
17 taxable property of such school district, which shall not be less
18 than the millage rate certified by the State Board of Education as
19 the uniform minimum school district ad valorem tax levy for the
20 support of the adequate education program in such school district
21 under Section 37-57-1. Provided, however, that any school
22 district levying less than the uniform minimum school district ad
23 valorem tax levy on July 1, 1997, shall only be required to
24 increase its local district maintenance levy in four (4) mill
25 annual increments in order to attain such millage requirements.
26 In making such levy, the levying authority shall levy an
27 additional amount sufficient to cover anticipated delinquencies
28 and costs of collection so that the net amount of money to be

29 produced by such levy shall be equal to the amount which is
30 requested by said school board. The proceeds of such tax levy,
31 excluding levies for the payment of the principal of and interest
32 on school bonds or notes and excluding levies for costs of
33 collection, shall be placed in the school depository to the credit
34 of the school district and shall be expended in the manner
35 provided by law for the purpose of supplementing teachers'
36 salaries, extending school terms, purchasing furniture, supplies
37 and materials, and for all other lawful operating and incidental
38 expenses of such school district, funds for which are not provided
39 by adequate education program fund allotments.

40 The monies authorized to be received by school districts from
41 the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund pursuant to Section
42 37-61-35 shall be included as ad valorem tax receipts. The
43 levying authority for the school district, as defined in Section
44 37-57-1, shall reduce the ad valorem tax levy for such school
45 district in an amount equal to the amount distributed to such
46 school district from the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund each
47 calendar year pursuant to said Section 37-61-35. Such reduction
48 shall not be less than the millage rate necessary to generate a
49 reduction in ad valorem tax receipts equal to the funds
50 distributed to such school district from the School Ad Valorem Tax
51 Reduction Fund pursuant to Section 37-61-35. Such reduction shall
52 not be deemed to be a reduction in the aggregate amount of support
53 from ad valorem taxation for purposes of Section 37-19-11. The
54 millage levy certified by the State Board of Education as the
55 uniform minimum ad valorem tax levy or the millage levy that would
56 generate funds in an amount equal to a school district's district
57 entitlement, as defined in Section 37-22-1(2)(e), shall be subject
58 to the provisions of this paragraph.

59 In any county where there is located a nuclear generating
60 power plant on which a tax is assessed under Section 27-35-309(3),
61 such required levy and revenue produced thereby may be reduced by

62 the levying authority in an amount in proportion to a reduction in
63 the base revenue of any such county from the previous year. Such
64 reduction shall be allowed only if the reduction in base revenue
65 equals or exceeds five percent (5%). "Base revenue" shall mean
66 the revenue received by the county from the ad valorem tax levy
67 plus the revenue received by the county from the tax assessed
68 under Section 27-35-309(3) and authorized to be used for any
69 purposes for which a county is authorized by law to levy an ad
70 valorem tax. For purposes of determining if the reduction equals
71 or exceeds five percent (5%), a levy of millage equal to the prior
72 year's millage shall be hypothetically applied to the current
73 year's ad valorem tax base to determine the amount of revenue to
74 be generated from the ad valorem tax levy. For the purposes of
75 this section and Section 37-57-107, the portion of the base
76 revenue used for the support of any school district shall be
77 deemed to be the aggregate receipts from ad valorem taxes for the
78 support of any school district. This paragraph shall apply to
79 taxes levied for the 1987 fiscal year and for each fiscal year
80 thereafter. If the Mississippi Supreme Court or another court
81 finally adjudicates that the tax levied under Section 27-35-309(3)
82 is unconstitutional, then this paragraph shall stand repealed.

83 (2) When the tax is levied upon the territory of any school
84 district located in two (2) or more counties, the order of the
85 school board requesting the levying of such tax shall be certified
86 to the levying authority of each of the counties involved, and
87 each of the levying authorities shall levy the tax in the manner
88 specified herein. The taxes so levied shall be collected by the
89 tax collector of the levying authority involved and remitted by
90 the tax collector to the school depository of the home county to
91 the credit of the school district involved as provided above,
92 except that taxes for collection fees may be retained by the
93 levying authority for deposit into its general fund.

94 (3) The aggregate receipts from ad valorem taxes levied for
95 school district purposes, excluding collection fees, pursuant to
96 this section and Section 37-57-1 shall be subject to the increased
97 limitation under Section 37-57-107; however, if the ad valorem tax
98 effort in dollars requested by the school district for the fiscal
99 year exceeds the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax
100 effort in dollars between zero and up to and including four
101 percent (4%), then the levying authority may veto the school
102 board's request for the additional levy. If the ad valorem tax
103 effort in dollars requested by the school district for the fiscal
104 year exceeds the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax
105 effort in dollars by more than four percent (4%) but not more than
106 seven percent (7%), then the school board shall publish notice
107 thereof once each week for at least three (3) consecutive weeks in
108 a newspaper having general circulation in the school district
109 involved, with the first publication thereof to be made not less
110 than fifteen (15) days prior to the final adoption of the budget
111 by the school board. If at any time prior to said adoption a
112 petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen
113 hundred (1500), whichever is less, of the qualified electors of
114 the school district involved shall be filed with the school board
115 requesting that an election be called on the question of exceeding
116 the next preceding fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars
117 by more than four percent (4%) but not more than seven percent
118 (7%), then the school board shall, not later than the next regular
119 meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be held within
120 such school district upon such question. The election shall be
121 called and held, and notice thereof shall be given, in the same
122 manner for elections upon the questions of the issuance of the
123 bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be
124 certified to the school board. The ballot shall contain the
125 language "For the School Tax Increase Over Four Percent (4%)" and
126 "Against the School Tax Increase Over Four Percent (4%)." If a

127 majority of the qualified electors of the school district who
128 voted in such election shall vote in favor of the question, then
129 the stated increase requested by the school board shall be
130 approved. If the ad valorem tax effort in dollars requested by
131 the school district for the fiscal year exceeds the next preceding
132 fiscal year's ad valorem tax effort in dollars by more than seven
133 percent (7%), then the school board shall, not later than the next
134 regular meeting, adopt a resolution calling an election to be held
135 within such school district upon such question. The election
136 shall be called and held, and notice thereof shall be given, in
137 the same manner for elections upon the questions of the issuance
138 of the bonds of school districts, and the results thereof shall be
139 certified to the school board. The ballot shall contain the
140 language "For the School Tax Increase Over Seven Percent (7%)" and
141 "Against the School Tax Increase Over Seven Percent (7%)." If a
142 majority of the qualified electors of the school district who
143 voted in such election shall vote in favor of the question, then
144 the stated increase requested by the school board shall be
145 approved. For the purposes of this paragraph, the revenue sources
146 excluded from the increased limitation under Section 37-57-107
147 shall also be excluded from the limitation described herein in the
148 same manner as they are excluded under Section 37-57-107.

149 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
150 and after July 1, 2006.