

By: Representatives Dickson, Blackmon,
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To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1262

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 DEVELOP A TRAINING MODEL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW-RELATED
3 EDUCATION IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO DEFINE THE TERM
4 "LAW-RELATED EDUCATION"; TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES OF LAW-RELATED
5 EDUCATION; TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT
6 LAW-RELATED EDUCATION USING THE TRAINING MODEL DEVELOPED BY THE
7 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR BY FORMULATING THEIR OWN
8 PROGRAMS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
9 ENCOURAGE THE INCORPORATION OF LAW-RELATED EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS;
10 TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPONENTS OF LAW-RELATED EDUCATION IN THE
11 ELEMENTARY GRADES; TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPONENTS OF LAW-RELATED
12 EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADES; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) Before July 1, 2008, the State Department of
16 Education shall develop a comprehensive training model to be made
17 available to local school districts for the establishment of
18 law-related education in the public school system. For the
19 purposes of this section, "law-related education" means an
20 instructional approach about rules, laws and the legal system
21 which actively involves students in instruction about legal
22 rights, responsibilities and the role of the citizen in order to
23 prepare the students for responsible citizenship. Law-related
24 education is not a prescribed program of study, but is a generic,
25 interdisciplinary, on-going approach to education which combines
26 particular kinds of content with interactive instructional
27 strategies.

28 (2) The purposes of law-related education shall include, but
29 not be limited to, the following:

30 (a) To train students to think critically;

31 (b) To teach problem-solving, conflict resolution and
32 mediation skills to students;

33 (c) To help students understand their legal rights and
34 responsibilities and the legal process, including the consequences
35 of breaking rules or laws; and

36 (d) To encourage student participation and application
37 of skills acquired through law-related education to real-life
38 situations.

39 (3) A local school district may implement law-related
40 education utilizing the training model developed by the State
41 Department of Education or by formulating its own program. To
42 assist in the planning and development of law-related education,
43 an advisory group consisting of school, court, police, community
44 service and academic personnel may be organized to address the
45 specific needs of individual schools and communities.

46 (4) The State Department of Education shall encourage school
47 districts to incorporate law-related education at every grade
48 level. Law-related education may be used in the instruction of
49 any subject matter.

50 (5) In the elementary grades, the components of law-related
51 education may consist of the following:

52 (a) Evaluation of a certain rule to determine why the
53 rule was made, who determines when the rule has been broken, and
54 what the consequences for breaking that rule are;

55 (b) Studying rules to determine if the rules are clear,
56 consistent, fair and enforceable; and

57 (c) Creation and enforcement of a set of rules by the
58 students themselves.

59 (6) In the junior and senior high school grades, the
60 components of law-related education may consist of the following:

61 (a) Examination of legal conflicts throughout history
62 by using the case study method of legal analysis;

63 (b) Mock trials and moot court programs;

64 (c) Simulations and role playing of police procedures;

65 (d) Conflict resolution and mediation;

66 (e) Formal and informal debate;
67 (f) Cooperative group problem solving; and
68 (g) Regular visits and involvement with outside
69 resource persons, including attorneys, police officers and other
70 legal professionals from the community.

71 (7) A school district may incorporate law-related education
72 into any after-school programs offered by the district.

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