

By: Representative Martinson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 330

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO TEACH READING SKILLS TO STUDENTS IN
3 GRADES 1 THROUGH 3 FOR NO LESS THAN THREE HOURS EACH DAY; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-13-10. (1) The State Board of Education shall develop
9 and implement a Reading Sufficiency Program of Instruction * * *
10 designed to enable each student to acquire the appropriate grade
11 level of reading skills. In order to implement the Reading
12 Sufficiency Program of Instruction, each local school board shall
13 develop a reading sufficiency plan for its school district which
14 may include the following components:

15 (a) Sufficient additional in-school instructional time
16 for the development of reading and comprehension skills of the
17 student;

18 (b) Readiness intervention programs, such as
19 kindergarten programs, extended school day or school year
20 programs, and program initiatives to reduce class size;

21 (c) Utilization of research-based teaching
22 methodologies or strategies for providing direct instruction in
23 phonics, vocabulary and comprehension development, including
24 systematic, intensive, explicit phonics, using decodable
25 vocabulary-controlled texts (texts in which ninety-five percent
26 (95%) of the words are decodable), as is determined appropriate by
27 the State Board of Education; and

28 (d) Professional development for assistant teachers,
29 teachers and administrators to assist students in implementing the
30 reading sufficiency program.

31 (2) Pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature
32 specifically for such purpose, the State Department of Education
33 shall provide in-service training, computer software and certified
34 reading instructor personnel for training local school district
35 licensed personnel to assist students in implementing the reading
36 sufficiency program required under this section.

37 (3) The State Board of Education, * * * on January 1 of
38 each * * * year, shall prepare a report on the implementation of
39 the reading sufficiency program in each school district as
40 required under this section, which shall include an assessment of
41 the acquisition of reading skills by each student for the
42 appropriate grade level in which the student is enrolled.

43 (4) The school board of each school district shall require
44 all students in Grades 1 through 3 to be taught reading skills no
45 less than three (3) hours each day.

46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2007.