

**AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO**

SENATE BILL NO. ~~2398~~ 243 J

**BY: Representative Scott**

1        **AMEND** after line 684 by inserting the following language as  
2 new sections:

3        "SECTION 4. (1) There is created a pilot program in the  
4 East Jasper School District and Laurel School District, for the  
5 duration of three (3) years, during which period of the pilot  
6 program, the school districts shall be exempt from certain  
7 statutes applicable to public schools and school districts and the  
8 rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the State Board of  
9 Education. Pilot program school districts and the licensed  
10 employees of those districts are exempt from the following  
11 requirements:

12            (a) Reporting student grades to the State Department of  
13 Education;

14           (b) Having the school district's official discipline  
15 plan and code of student conduct legally audited on an annual  
16 basis;

17           (c) Submitting reports regarding the type and amount of  
18 work done in each grade of their respective school to the  
19 superintendent of the school district;

20           (d) Participating in the process of selecting textbooks  
21 by the State Board of Education;

22           (e) Completing surveys from the State Department of  
23 Education; and

24           (f) Fulfilling continuing education unit requirements  
25 for teacher license renewal.

26       (2) (a) School districts within the pilot program may  
27 provide for certain incentives for eligible teachers, including  
28 the following:

29           (i) Forgiveness of state student educational  
30 loans; and

31           (ii) Housing assistance and moving expenses in the  
32 same manner as provided for in the Critical Needs Teacher Shortage  
33 Act.

34           (b) The State Board of Education shall develop a grant  
35 program exclusively for school districts within the pilot program,

36 to receive funds for the implementation of innovative educational  
37 programs.

38 (3) The school board of each school district within the  
39 pilot program shall adopt policies and procedures regarding the  
40 daily curriculum in schools, weekly homework assignments, parental  
41 involvement, dress codes, school holidays, parent-teacher  
42 conferences and a school syllabus. The policies and procedures  
43 must include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

44 (a) Every child must be assigned daily homework  
45 assignments, which must include both written and reading  
46 assignments. As part of the weekly assignments, students shall be  
47 required to complete vocabulary and spelling homework lessons;

48 (b) Every child must be taught to write in proper  
49 manuscript and cursive lettering, which must be reinforced through  
50 weekend homework assignments at every grade level;

51 (c) Every child must be assigned a daily reading  
52 assignment;

53 (d) Every child must be assigned a daily written  
54 assignment to accompany the daily reading assignment in order to  
55 assess the reading comprehension level of the child;

56 (e) Every child must be assigned a minimum of five (5)  
57 words per week in each subject area to learn to spell, define and

58 use in a sentence, which must be used to assess the child's  
59 retention of the assignment;

60 (f) Every child must be assigned a minimum of one (1)  
61 book to read per subject each month and must write a short report  
62 on the subject matter of the book, which report must be used to  
63 assess the child's learning ability. Children in primary grades  
64 may be allowed to draw pictures, elaborate orally or use any other  
65 alternative method to tell about their books;

66 (g) Every parent or guardian of a child shall  
67 participate in one (1) supportive service for the school district,  
68 such as assisting at the bus stop, working the concession stand  
69 for an athletic event, chaperoning a school sponsored event,  
70 serving in the Parent Teacher Association, or serving as a mentor,  
71 resource officer or tutor;

72 (h) Every teacher shall dress in a professional manner,  
73 which does not include wearing blue jeans, denim jeans or tee  
74 shirts;

75 (i) Every child must be required to wear a school  
76 uniform;

77 ~~(j) The school districts shall provide for only the~~  
78 ~~following school holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas,~~

79 ~~New Year's, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Spring Break and Good~~  
80 ~~Friday holidays. Permanent early release days are prohibited;~~

81 (k) Staff development training may not be held during  
82 a regular school day; however, staff development training may be  
83 offered after the regular school day has been completed. The  
84 staff development training must be relevant to the teaching  
85 experience and beneficial to the teacher, student and district as  
86 a whole;

87 (l) Parent-teacher conferences must be held at the  
88 middle of each nine-week term with the parent and a child who has  
89 not mastered his or her coursework for the mid-term or who has  
90 demonstrated bad citizenship;

91 (m) The school district shall provide a syllabus for  
92 each nine (9) weeks with the homework assignments posted for each  
93 subject. The syllabus must contain an agreement that the parent  
94 or guardian is required to sign stating that the parent  
95 understands the child has daily homework assignments and that the  
96 parent has received a document outlining the child's work  
97 assignments and due dates of the assignments; and

98 (n) The school district shall post the syllabus on the  
99 school district website, if available. If a student loses his or  
100 her syllabus, the school district may charge a fee of not more

101 than Twenty-five Cents (25¢) per individual sheet to copy and  
102 replace the document.

103 (4) Alternative school programs in each school district  
104 within the pilot program shall adhere to the policies required  
105 under subsection (1) of this section. ~~Students attending an~~  
106 ~~alternative school must attend school for no less than eight (8)~~  
107 ~~hours per day and must attend school on Saturday for no less than~~  
108 ~~eight (8) hours per day.~~ At alternative schools, Saturday must be  
109 known as "Attitude Adjustment Day." ~~Each~~ <sup>One</sup> Saturday, <sup>per term</sup> the school  
110 districts shall arrange for retired military, first responders,  
111 volunteer mentors, ministers, parents and any other community  
112 volunteers to attend school with the alternative school students  
113 and to share their skills and knowledge with the students,  
114 encouraging them to become better students and citizens. In  
115 addition, the school district may authorize students to  
116 participate in community service programs on Saturdays to help  
117 build character and concern for their own school, family,  
118 neighborhood and community.

119 (5) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

120 SECTION 5. ~~(1) Each school district within the pilot,~~  
121 ~~program shall design and implement a video streaming program in~~  
122 ~~conjunction with the United States Department of Labor to aid in~~

123 ~~the development of the school district's curriculum. Using state~~  
124 ~~and national occupational projections available through the~~  
125 ~~Department of Labor, the school district shall develop an~~  
126 ~~alternative career-track curriculum that prepares students for~~  
127 ~~direct entry into the workforce or post-secondary education and~~  
128 ~~training in the five (5) occupations projected to be the fastest~~  
129 ~~growing in the State of Mississippi, and in the twenty (20)~~  
130 ~~occupations projected to be the fastest growing in the country,~~  
131 ~~over the next succeeding five (5) years. The district shall~~  
132 provide students with access to the Department of Labor, via video  
133 streaming means, and shall assist students in gathering relevant  
134 information from the Department of Labor which will enable the  
135 students to make informed, educated career choices and to select  
136 the curriculum that will begin the students on a path toward a  
137 meaningful and rewarding occupation.

138 ~~(2) An alternative career-track curriculum developed and~~  
139 ~~implemented in a school district under subsection (1) of this~~  
140 ~~section must be designed to enable students to meet all necessary~~  
141 ~~requirements for graduation and to be awarded a standard high~~  
142 ~~school diploma upon graduation from a high school within that~~  
143 ~~district.~~

144 (3) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020."

145           AMEND further by renumbering the succeeding section

146 accordingly.

147           AMEND further the title to conform.

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