

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2339

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP A
3 CURRICULUM RELATED TO THE STUDY OF SIGN LANGUAGE WHICH SHALL COUNT
4 AS AN ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGES FOR THE PURPOSES OF
5 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
10 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
11 minimum:

12 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
13 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
14 Education.

15 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
16 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
17 school board.

18 (c) By school, information on high school graduation
19 rates. High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty



20 percent (80%) must submit a detailed plan to the Mississippi
21 Department of Education to restructure the high school experience
22 to improve graduation rates.

23 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
24 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
25 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

26 (3) The State Board of Education may establish student
27 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
28 graduation.

29 (4) The State Board of Education shall develop a curriculum
30 related to the study of sign language. Any such class developed
31 by the board may count as an academic credit for foreign languages
32 for the purposes of high school graduation requirements.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
34 and after July 1, 2024.

