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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** SB 2370  
**DATE:** 4/9/02  
**CC:** FILE

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**SB 2370**

SB 2370 includes an alternate route for teacher certification supported by the IHL Deans of the Colleges of Education. SB 2370 establishes the Teach Mississippi Institute (TMI), on a pilot program basis and contingent upon funding, effective January 1, 2003. The provisions and requirements of the TMI are as follows:

- A person with at least a bachelor degree who has a passing score on Praxis I and Praxis II may apply for the TMI to teach in grades 7-12. The State Board of Education shall require that participating teacher preparation programs shall meet the standards of the TMI.
- The TMI shall include an eight-week, nine-semester hour summer program and a one-semester three-hour supervised internship to be completed while the teacher is employed as a full-time teacher intern in a local school district. The TMI shall be offered at up to four locations in the state with one TMI program to be located in each of the three Mississippi Supreme Court districts.
- The school district shall enter into an agreement with the institution providing the TMI program. The agreement will provide for a one-year classroom teaching experience, and the teacher shall complete the one-semester three-hour internship immediately following successful completion of the TMI.
- After successful completion of the TMI, the individual qualifies for a provisional teacher license while completing the nontraditional teacher preparation internship program.
- The teacher preparation institution shall monitor the intern teacher during the one-semester internship, and the district shall monitor the teacher throughout the one-year provisional program that includes a mentoring component with assistance provided by the SDE.

- Sixty days prior to the expiration of the provisional license the school district shall submit an evaluation of the teacher to the SDE for consideration for a standard teacher license. In addition, the teacher shall submit a transcript showing successful completion of the 12 semester hours required by the internship. If the school district recommends licensure, the applicant shall be issued a renewable standard license valid for five years.
- The institution may allow the teacher to credit the 12 semester hours toward the graduate hours required for the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT).
- During the provisional year the teacher shall be paid at step one on the pay scale, and, after receiving a standard license, the teacher will be paid at step three.
- Students in the TMI program shall qualify for the William Winter and Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Programs.
- The State Board of Education shall have authority to implement additional alternate route teacher licensure programs and to maintain the emergency certification program in effect prior to July 1, 2002.
- The State Board shall report to the Legislature on nontraditional teacher preparation internship programs by December 1, 2004.

The bill also provides for the following:

- Graduates of teacher education programs accredited by the National Association for Education of Young Children or by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education may be licensed to teach.
- A new special license to teach transitional bilingual education is created. Individuals meeting established requirements and having a bachelor or associate degree in teacher education shall qualify.
- The SDE shall compile a report on nontraditional administrator preparation internship programs and submit the findings to the Legislature by December 1, 2004.
- The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), shall compile a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2003, and annually thereafter. The report shall include:
  - The number of participants in the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program by institution and by freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classifications.
  - The number of nontraditional teacher license program participants.
  - The number of individuals who completed the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program and the school district in which they are employed.

- The number of individuals who are in default of their obligation under the Critical Needs Scholarship Program and the status of their obligation.
- The number of participants in the program who have successfully completed the Praxis Examination in their junior year.

SB 2370 is effective July 1, 2002.

The Deans held meetings last summer and developed the model for this bill. MDE originally opposed the bill because the Board is reviewing and nearing finalization of its own alternate route process, but MDE agreed to the final conference report.

I recommend that you sign SB 2370.