
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: **HB 264**
DATE: 3/22/02
CC: FILE

HB 264

HB 264 amends current law to establish meeting attendance requirements for school board members. HB 264 provides that if, during any calendar year, a school board member misses 20% or more of the meetings that require public notice, except for absences due to military duty, then that member has to reimburse the school district the portion of his salary which is proportionate to the number of meetings he missed.

HB 264 also requires the president of each school board to submit a report to the State Board of Education by February 1 of each year of the names of those members who missed 20% or more of the board meetings during the preceding calendar year.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill to include the excused absence(s) for military duty.

This bill was also introduced last year, but died in conference. The bill arose because of several instances around the state where board members have moved out of the school district, but remained on the board and continued to get paid even though they were not attending meetings. According to committee discussions, a former board member in Starkville moved to Washington State, but continued to receive a pay check from the school district.

HB 264 is effective January 1, 2003, if it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 before that date. If effectuated after January 1, 2003, HB 264 takes effect from and after the date it is effectuated.

I recommend that you sign HB 264.