

By: Representatives Barnett (92nd), Bozeman, To: Education;  
Green (96th), Hudson, Jennings, Ketchings, Appropriations  
Livingston, Malone, McCoy, Moak, Nettles,  
Roberson, Weathersby, Williams

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 706

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS; TO  
2 DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS USED IN THE ACT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SCHOOL  
3 SHALL BE A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR ARTISTICALLY TALENTED ELEVENTH  
4 AND TWELFTH GRADE STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SCHOOL SHALL BE  
5 GOVERNED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO  
6 DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE OPENING, OPERATION AND FUNDING OF THE  
7 SCHOOL TO BE PRESENTED TO THE 2000 LEGISLATURE; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
8 BOARD TO HIRE A DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO  
9 DEVELOP RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL  
10 AND TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE SCHOOL; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
11 BOARD TO ACCEPT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL; AND  
12 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. As used in this act, the following words and  
15 phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this section unless  
16 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

18 (b) "School" means the Mississippi School of Fine Arts.

19 SECTION 2. (1) There is created the Mississippi School of  
20 Fine Arts, which shall be a residential school for eleventh and  
21 twelfth grade high school students located on the campus of  
22 Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Mississippi. The purpose of the  
23 school shall be to provide a more challenging educational  
24 experience for artistically talented and gifted students of the  
25 state to develop their full potential, and the school's curriculum  
26 and admissions policies shall reflect that purpose.

27 (2) The 2001-2002 school year shall be the first year that  
28 the school shall admit students for enrollment, which shall be  
29 limited to students in the eleventh grade during the school's  
30 first year. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the school  
31 shall enroll students in the eleventh and twelfth grades.

32        SECTION 3. (1) The school shall be governed by the State  
33 Board of Education. The board shall develop a plan relating to  
34 the opening, operation and funding of the school to be presented  
35 to the Legislature during the 2000 Regular Session. The plan  
36 shall include an equitable and reasonable plan for student  
37 recruitment without regard to race, creed or color.

38        (2) The State Superintendent of Public Education may appoint  
39 an advisory panel to assist the board in developing the plan  
40 relating to the school. The panel shall be comprised of citizens  
41 who have been supporters of the cultural and educational  
42 advancement of the youth of the state and of educators and  
43 professionals representing the areas of dance, creative writing,  
44 music, theater arts, visual arts and academics. In addition, one  
45 (1) member of the panel shall be the fine arts specialist employed  
46 by the State Department of Education, and one (1) member shall be  
47 a representative of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

48        (3) The board may utilize the staff of the State Department  
49 of Education and other state agencies as may be required for the  
50 implementation of this act. The department may employ any  
51 personnel deemed necessary by the board for assisting in the  
52 development and implementation of the plan relating to the  
53 opening, operation and funding of the school. The board also may  
54 contract or enter into agreements with other agencies or private  
55 entities which it deems necessary to carry out its duties and  
56 functions relating to the opening and operation of the school.

57        SECTION 4. Subject to the availability of funding  
58 appropriated therefor, the board may hire a director of the  
59 school, who shall serve at the will and pleasure of the board.  
60 The director shall be the chief administrative officer of the  
61 school and shall administer the school in accordance with the  
62 policies established by the board. The director shall be  
63 responsible for those administrative duties and functions  
64 prescribed by the board, and the board, in its discretion, may

65 delegate to the director such powers and duties as it deems  
66 appropriate.

67       SECTION 5. The board shall be the exclusive governing body  
68 of the school and shall promulgate rules and regulations required  
69 for the administration and operation of the school. The emphasis  
70 of the school shall be on the education and training of students  
71 in the fine arts, but this emphasis shall not preclude the  
72 teaching of those liberal arts and science courses deemed  
73 necessary by the board to provide students with a well-rounded  
74 education. The programs of study at the school may not conflict  
75 with those programs available to students at the Mississippi  
76 School for Mathematics and Science.

77       SECTION 6. The board shall prepare the annual budget for the  
78 school. For the operation and support of the school, the board  
79 may receive contributions, donations, gifts, bequests of money,  
80 other forms of financial assistance and property, equipment,  
81 materials or manpower from persons, foundations, trust funds,  
82 corporations, organizations and other sources, public or private,  
83 to be expended and utilized by the board in carrying out this act.

84       SECTION 7. All expenditures for the school must be  
85 authorized by the board. The expenditures shall be paid by the  
86 State Treasurer on warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer,  
87 and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon  
88 requisition signed by the proper person, officer or officers.

89       SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
90 and after July 1, 1999.