

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

To: Education; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 706
(As Passed the House)

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.