

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Education; Juvenile
Justice

SENATE BILL NO. 2670

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVISE
2 AND IMPLEMENT A GENERAL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA PROGRAM FOR PREGNANT
3 TEENAGERS, TO BE BROADCAST ON MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION;
4 TO AMEND SECTION 37-63-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE
5 THE AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT
6 OF THAT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 SECTION 1. The State Department of Education is hereby
8 designated as the state agency responsible for the administration
9 and supervision of a general equivalency diploma curriculum to be
10 broadcast on Mississippi Educational Television for the benefit of
11 pregnant teenagers desiring to obtain a general equivalency
12 diploma. The State Department of Education is hereby authorized
13 to establish an office of televised GED curriculum within the
14 framework of the State Department of Education for the purpose of
15 developing standards, procedures and criteria for the
16 administration and supervision of a statewide program for pregnant
17 teenagers to obtain a general equivalency diploma, and shall
18 assume the further responsibility for promoting a statewide effort
19 to publicize the availability of this resource for pregnant teens.

20 SECTION 2. Section 37-63-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
21 amended as follows:

22 37-63-17. (1) The Mississippi Authority for Educational
23 Television is empowered to provide noncommercial production or
24 reproduction services for other public agencies and may collect
25 the costs of providing the services from the public agency plus a
26 separate equipment usage fee in an amount determined by the
27 authority and based upon the equipment used. The costs shall be
28 deposited to the credit of the authority. The separate equipment

29 usage fee shall be deposited in the Capital Equipment Replacement
30 Revolving Fund.

31 (2) The Authority for Educational Television may establish a
32 Capital Equipment Replacement Revolving Fund into which shall be
33 deposited equipment usage fees collected under subsection (1) and
34 funds from other sources designated for deposit in the Capital
35 Equipment Replacement Revolving Fund. The authority may expend
36 monies from the Capital Equipment Replacement Revolving Fund
37 subject to appropriation therefor by the Legislature to purchase
38 technical equipment for operating the educational radio and
39 television facilities.

40 (3) The Authority for Educational Television shall cooperate
41 with the State Department of Education in developing for broadcast
42 a general equivalency diploma curriculum for the benefit of
43 pregnant teenagers desiring to obtain a general equivalency
44 diploma as required by Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2670, 1999
45 Regular Session.

46 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 1999.