

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Fees, Salaries and  
Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2686

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-98, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE FOR EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS FOR CERTAIN STATE AGENCIES  
3 PROVIDING SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR  
4 STAFF DURING SUCH EXTENDED OFFICE HOURS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 25-1-98, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 25-1-98. (1) In addition to any other times required by  
9 statute, all state offices shall be open and staffed for the  
10 normal conduct of business from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday  
11 through Friday, except on legal holidays as set forth in Section  
12 3-3-7. The Governor may designate certain state offices and  
13 institutions as providers of essential services and require that  
14 they be open and staffed on legal holidays. The Board of  
15 Directors of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind may, in its  
16 discretion, require that its offices and operations be open and  
17 staffed on legal holidays. Employees required to work on legal  
18 holidays shall earn compensatory leave under the provisions of  
19 Section 25-3-92. No employee shall receive additional vacation or  
20 sick leave benefits for working on a legal holiday, nor shall this  
21 section be construed to authorize any additional compensation as  
22 an alternative to the accrual of compensatory leave except as  
23 specifically provided for in a legislative appropriation. The  
24 provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the  
25 hours of operation of any agency or to abrogate any action taken  
26 during hours other than those stated, nor shall these provisions  
27 apply to any offices that do not customarily stay open five (5)

28 days a week. The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
29 the military department of the State of Mississippi or to the  
30 armories, field training sites, air bases or other installations  
31 of the Mississippi National Guard.

32 (2) A workday for a state employee in a full-time employment  
33 position shall be eight (8) hours in duration at a minimum  
34 exclusive of time off for meals. The appointing authority shall  
35 develop work schedules which ensure that each full-time employee  
36 works a full workday and shall provide the State Auditor with a  
37 copy of the regular work schedule of the appointing authority.

38 (3) In addition to any other times required by statute, the  
39 following state agencies providing services to low-income families  
40 shall be open and staffed for the normal conduct of business from  
41 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday: (a) the  
42 Department of Human Services; (b) the Division of Medicaid; (c)  
43 the State Department of Health; and (d) the Mississippi Employment  
44 Security Commission. The administrative head of the appropriate  
45 divisions and bureaus of said agencies shall assign employees to  
46 flexible working hours in order to accommodate the extended office  
47 hours prescribed herein, and no employee assigned to such extended  
48 office hours shall receive additional compensation, vacation leave  
49 or compensatory leave benefits for staffing the office during such  
50 period of time.

51 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
52 and after its passage.