

By: Senator(s) Farris

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2718

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL FOR VISUAL AND
2 PERFORMING ARTS UNDER THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD
3 OF EDUCATION, TO BE LOCATED IN HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI; TO
4 EMPOWER THE BOARD TO APPOINT A DIRECTOR AND PROVIDE RULEMAKING
5 AUTHORITY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL; TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL
6 TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AND MAKE EXPENDITURES; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this chapter, the following terms
10 shall have the meanings ascribed herein, except when the context
11 clearly indicates a different meaning:

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

13 (b) "School" means the Mississippi High School for
14 Visual and Performing Arts.

15 (2) (a) There is hereby created the Mississippi High School
16 for Visual and Performing Arts which shall be a residential school
17 for eleventh and twelfth grade high school students located in
18 Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

19 (b) The school shall be governed by the State Board of
20 Education.

21 (c) The board shall develop a plan relating to the
22 opening, the operation and the funding of the school. Such plan
23 shall be presented to the Legislature during the 2000 Regular
24 Session and shall include an equitable and reasonable plan for
25 student recruitment without regard to race, creed or color.

26 (d) The purpose of the school shall be to educate the
27 students of the state gifted and talented in the visual and
28 performing arts, and its curriculum and admissions policies shall

29 reflect such purpose.

30 (e) The board shall prepare the annual budget for the
31 school.

32 (3) The board may hire a director when it so deems one
33 necessary and when sufficient funds have been appropriated. The
34 director shall serve at the board's will and pleasure. He shall
35 be the chief administrative officer of the school and shall
36 administer the school in accordance with policies established by
37 the board. The director shall be responsible for such
38 administrative duties and functions as the board shall so
39 prescribe. The board shall be authorized, in its discretion, to
40 delegate to the director such of its powers and duties as it deems
41 appropriate.

42 (4) The board shall be authorized to solicit and utilize the
43 staff of the State Department of Education, staff of the Board of
44 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and other state
45 agencies as required for the implementation of this chapter. In
46 addition, the board shall be authorized to contract or enter into
47 agreements with other agencies and/or private research centers
48 that it may deem necessary to carry out its duties and functions.

49 (5) The board shall be the exclusive governing body of the
50 Mississippi High School for Visual and Performing Arts and is
51 hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and
52 regulations required to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

53 The emphasis of this school shall be dedicated to the teaching of
54 music, art, theater and dance to those students who are selected
55 by the appropriate methods to attend the school. The music area
56 would consist of instruction in the following areas:

57 instrumental, and vocal applied music, individual and ensemble
58 performance, and music theory and history. In the area of

59 theater, students would receive instruction in all areas

60 appropriate to their individual development as actors, directors
61 and designers; also, in the area of theater history. In visual

62 arts, students would receive instruction in the following areas:

63 painting, drawing, sculpture, as well as technology-based courses,

64 such as computer and graphic design; also, in the area of art

65 history. In the area of dance, students would receive instruction

66 in the following areas: basic movement, ballet, modern dance,
67 period dance, and other appropriate styles of dance, such as jazz
68 and tap, and dance history. It is understood that students at the
69 Mississippi High School for Visual and Performing Arts would
70 receive instruction necessary for the completion of their high
71 school degree in all other general academic areas.

72 (6) For the operation and support of the Mississippi High
73 School for Visual and Performing Arts, the board is authorized and
74 empowered to receive contributions, donations, gifts, bequests of
75 money, other forms of financial assistance and/or property,
76 equipment, materials or manpower from persons, foundations, trust
77 funds, corporations, organizations and other sources, private or
78 public, to be expended and utilized by said board in carrying out
79 the provisions of this chapter.

80 (7) All expenditures shall be authorized by the board. Such
81 expenditures shall be paid therefrom by the State Treasurer on
82 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer. Said State Fiscal
83 Officer shall issue his warrant upon requisition signed by the
84 proper person, officer or officers in the manner provided by law.

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