

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2722

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING ARTS EDUCATION
3 INSTRUCTORS IN GRADES 9-12 IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO DEFINE "ARTS
4 EDUCATION"; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S
5 CURRICULUM COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND ART EDUCATION TO SUPERVISE
6 SUCH ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT
7 ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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9 SECTION 1. (1) For purposes of this section, "arts
10 education" means instruction in the visual arts, music and
11 dramatic arts.

12 (2) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, in addition to
13 other funds allotted under the minimum education program, each
14 school district shall be allotted sufficient funding to employ one
15 (1) arts education instructor for every six hundred (600) pupils
16 in average daily attendance in Grades 9-12 in such school
17 district. Provided, however, that no school district's allotment
18 shall be less than the funds necessary to employ one (1) arts
19 education instructor. The State Department of Education may
20 increase the number of positions funded each year beyond the above
21 requirements as more funding is made available.

22 (3) The assignment of such arts education instructors to the
23 particular high school shall be at the discretion of the local
24 school district with the following restrictions:

25 (a) The arts instructor/student ratio shall be no
26 greater than 1:600; and

27 (b) No individual shall be employed as an arts
28 education instructor without appropriate training and
29 certification by the State Department of Education.

30 (4) To qualify for minimum program funding, high school arts
31 education instructors shall be full-time professional personnel,
32 shall spend at least seventy-five percent (75%) of work time in a
33 direct arts instruction with pupils, and shall devote no more than
34 one-fourth (1/4) of the work day to administrative activities
35 which are arts education related.

36 (5) Nothing in this act shall prohibit any school district
37 from employing with local funds more arts education instructors
38 than are provided for in this act.

39 (6) The State Department of Education's Curriculum
40 Coordinator of Music and Art Education, established under Section
41 37-3-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall have responsibilities
42 which include the oversight of new high school arts education
43 programs funded under this act.

44 (7) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and
45 regulations regarding the activities of the arts education
46 instructors.

47 SECTION 2. All new programs authorized in this act are
48 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated
49 therefor by the Legislature.

50 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 1999.