

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2780

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE'S GENERAL  
2 FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION TO BE ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED TO  
3 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY  
4 AND JUNIOR COLLEGES AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE  
5 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING UNTIL NO LESS THAN SIXTY-THREE  
6 PERCENT OF SUCH FUNDS IS APPROPRIATED FOR EDUCATION PURPOSES; TO  
7 EXCLUDE EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS AND APPROPRIATIONS TO THE  
8 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE  
9 SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE UNITS FROM THE MINIMUM APPROPRIATION  
10 PERCENTAGE; TO PROVIDE THAT FUNDS NOT EXPENDED AT THE CLOSE OF THE  
11 FISCAL YEAR SHALL REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND; AND FOR RELATED  
12 PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. (1) For the purpose of funding the support and  
15 maintenance of public education and any related educational  
16 activities and programs in the State of Mississippi, beginning  
17 with the appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001, the Legislature  
18 shall increase annually the percentage of the state's general  
19 funds available for appropriation during the then current fiscal  
20 year which is appropriated to the State Department of Education,  
21 the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and the Board of  
22 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning so that for the  
23 appropriations for Fiscal Year 2004, sixty-three percent (63%) of  
24 the state's general funds available for appropriation for the then  
25 current fiscal year is appropriated for public education purposes.

26 In each subsequent fiscal year, no less than sixty-three percent  
27 (63%) of the state's general funds or a percentage equal to the  
28 percentage of the state's general funds which was appropriated for  
29 the preceding fiscal year to the State Department of Education,  
30 the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and the Board of  
31 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, whichever is

32 greater, shall be appropriated for such purposes.

33 (2) Any funds from the Education Enhancement Fund and any  
34 appropriation made to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
35 of Higher Learning for the support of agriculture units shall not  
36 be included in the minimum appropriation percentage established  
37 under this section.

38 (3) Any monies appropriated by the Legislature for the  
39 purpose set forth in subsection (1) of this section which are not  
40 expended during the fiscal year for which those funds were  
41 appropriated shall revert to the State General Fund at the close  
42 of that fiscal year.

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