

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled **BILL:**

H.B. No. 1639: Appropriation; Schools for the Blind and the Deaf.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.

2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the State Board of
9 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
10 Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for
11 the Deaf for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending
12 June 30, 2000..... \$ 10,413,655.00.

13 SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
14 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the special
15 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the State Board of
16 Education for the support of the Mississippi School for the Blind
17 or the Mississippi School for the Deaf which is comprised of
18 special source funds collected by or otherwise available to the
19 schools, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the schools
20 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending
21 June 30, 2000..... \$ 731,062.00.

22 SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated under the provisions of
23 Section 1 and Section 2, the following positions are authorized:

24 **AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:**

25	Permanent:	Full Time.	215
26		Part Time.	40
27	Time-Limited:	Full Time.	3
28		Part Time.	0

29 From the funds provided herein, funds may be expended for the
30 following purposes, in compliance with the policies established by
31 the State Personnel Board and any conditions placed on such
32 expenditures:

33 (a) The components of the Variable Compensation Plan
34 shall be maintained within the constraints of the funds
35 appropriated herein.

36 (b) Funds are provided to adjust the Variable
37 Compensation Plan, including realignment, to ensure that all
38 full-time employees with at least six (6) months of continuous
39 current service, as of June 30, 1999, receive an increase of One
40 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00). Funds are provided to
41 adjust critical job classes up to an additional One Thousand
42 Dollars (\$1,000.00).

43 (c) If an employee is currently at or above the end
44 salary for his or her job classification, then the increase shall
45 be built into the employee's base salary. To be eligible for any
46 increase authorized in this section, employees may not have a
47 current performance rating below "meets expectations" as of the
48 effective date of the increase. Employees who subsequently
49 receive a performance rating of "meets expectations" or above
50 during Fiscal Year 2000 shall receive the salary increase
51 effective the date of the rating.

52 It is the agency's responsibility to make certain that funds
53 required to be appropriated for "Personal Services" for Fiscal
54 Year 2001 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2000 funds appropriated for
55 that purpose unless programs or positions are added to the
56 agency's budget by the Mississippi Legislature.

57 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
58 the terms, conditions, and procedures established by general law.

59 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
60 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
61 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
62 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

63 None of the funds herein provided shall be expended to hire

64 any person on a contractual basis, for any period for any purpose,
65 without the express prior approval of the State Personnel
66 Director. The State Personnel Director shall consider, in
67 approving such contracts, the availability of funds, the need for
68 services, compliance with the State Compensation Plan and the
69 qualifications of the persons offering to perform the services.
70 The State Fiscal Officer shall not pay any warrant that is in
71 violation of this section.

72 SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that the
73 Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for
74 the Deaf shall maintain complete accounting and personnel records
75 related to the expenditure of all funds appropriated under this
76 act and that such records shall be in the same format and level of
77 detail as maintained for Fiscal Year 1999. The Department of
78 Finance and Administration shall insure that financial controls
79 comparable to those utilized for Fiscal Year 1999 are maintained
80 throughout Fiscal Year 1999 for this agency. The State Personnel
81 Board shall insure that personnel controls and records comparable
82 to those utilized for Fiscal Year 1999 are maintained throughout
83 Fiscal Year 2000 for this agency. It is further the intention of
84 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
85 2001 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
86 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
87 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 1999 budget request
88 process.

89 SECTION 5. With the funds provided herein, it is the
90 intention of the Legislature that the academic teachers at the
91 Mississippi School for the Deaf and the Mississippi School for the
92 Blind shall receive their annual increment and that the
93 Mississippi State Personnel Board and the Mississippi Department
94 of Education work together to adjust the special compensation plan
95 for these teachers to reflect the increase given to public school
96 teachers through the Minimum Program or the increase given to
97 state employees, whichever is greater, to be implemented July 1,
98 1999.

99 SECTION 6. Funds are provided in this act for the
100 reallocations of eight (8) positions not to exceed Thirty-one
101 Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$31,890.00).

102 SECTION 7. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
103 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
104 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
105 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
106 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
107 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

108 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from
109 and after July 1, 1999.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X
Charlie Capps, Jr.

X
William J. McCoy

X
Diane C. Peranich

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X
Dick Hall

X
Grey F. Ferris

X
Sampson Jackson II