

By: Warren

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1286

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM  
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FOR THE  
3 PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS FOR GRADES K-12;  
4 TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE-FUNDED  
5 SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS; TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPREHENSIVE  
6 COUNSELING SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY STATE-FUNDED COUNSELORS; AND  
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, in  
10 addition to other funds allotted under the minimum education  
11 program, each school district shall be allotted funding to employ  
12 school guidance counselors based upon the following formula:

13	STATE-FUNDED COUNSELOR	STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL
14	1/2	1-150
15	1	151-250
16	1-1/2	251-400
17	2	401-550
18	2-1/2	551-700
19	3	701-850
20	3-1/2	851-1000
21	4	1001-1150
22	4-1/2	1151-1300
23	5	1301-1450
24	5-1/2	1451-and over

25 (2) The State Department of Education may increase the  
26 number of positions funded each year beyond the requirements  
27 established under subsection (1) as money is made available.

28 (3) The assignment of state-funded guidance counselors to

29 the particular schools within the district shall be at the  
30 discretion of the local school board with the following  
31 restrictions:

32 (a) The counselor:student ratio shall be no greater  
33 than 1:250;

34 (b) No individual may be employed as a school guidance  
35 counselor without appropriate training and certification, as  
36 determined by the State Department of Education; and

37 (c) School guidance counselors shall be full-time  
38 professional personnel and shall spend a minimum of eighty-five  
39 percent (85%) of work time in direct counseling relationships with  
40 students.

41 (4) State-funded school counselors shall provide the  
42 following comprehensive counseling services:

43 (a) Academic and personal or social counseling;

44 (b) Student assessment and assessment counseling;

45 (c) Career and educational counseling;

46 (d) Individual and group counseling (large or small  
47 groups);

48 (e) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;

49 (f) Referrals to community agencies;

50 (g) Educational consultation and collaboration with  
51 teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;

52 (h) Educational and career placement services; and

53 (i) Follow-up counseling services.

54 (5) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any school  
55 district from employing with local funds more school guidance  
56 counselors than are provided for in this section.

57 (6) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and  
58 regulations regarding the activities of the school guidance  
59 counselors which are not inconsistent with this section.

60 SECTION 2. All new programs authorized under this act are  
61 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated

62 therefor by the Legislature.

63 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
64 and after July 1, 2000.