

By: Martinson

To: Local and Private
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1736

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MADISON
2 COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, TO ESTABLISH THE MADISON COUNTY EDUCATION
3 AUTHORITY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF SUCH AUTHORITY; TO
4 REQUIRE SUCH AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH AN INTERACTIVE
5 TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED, EDUCATION CENTER TO SERVE AS A NETWORK TO
6 LINK PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND RESOURCE CENTERS
7 THROUGH THE USE OF SPECIALLY MODIFIED PHONE LINES OR OTHER
8 TECHNOLOGY IN ORDER TO ENHANCE COURSE OFFERINGS AT SUCH SCHOOLS;
9 TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MADISON COUNTY TO
10 CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO SUCH AUTHORITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. If the Board of Supervisors of Madison County,
13 Mississippi, finds and determines that the public convenience and
14 necessity require the same, as evidenced by a resolution duly
15 adopted and entered on the official minutes of the board, it may
16 establish the Madison County Education Authority, hereinafter
17 "Authority." The Authority shall be composed of seven (7)
18 resident citizens of Madison County, one (1) from each
19 supervisor's district, who must be qualified electors therein, and
20 two (2) appointed from the county-at-large by the Board of
21 Supervisors of Madison County for a term of five (5) years. The
22 initial members of the Authority shall serve terms as follows:
23 two (2) members shall be appointed for terms of one (1) year; two
24 (2) members for terms of two (2) years; one (1) member for a term
25 of three (3) years; one (1) member for a term of four (4) years;
26 and one (1) member for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter, all
27 members shall serve for a term of five (5) years.

28 SECTION 2. Before entering upon the duties of the office,
29 each member of the Authority shall take and subscribe the oath of
30 office required by Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of 1890,

31 and shall give bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars
32 (\$5,000.00), conditioned upon the faithful performance of his
33 duties, such bond to be made payable to Madison County and to be
34 approved by the board of supervisors of such county. The members
35 of the Authority shall meet at the regular meeting place of the
36 Board of Supervisors of Madison County within five (5) days after
37 the members are initially appointed and shall elect from among
38 their number a chairman, vice chairman and secretary-treasurer of
39 the Authority and shall adopt a seal and such bylaws, rules and
40 regulations as may be necessary to govern the time, place and
41 manner for holding subsequent meetings of the Authority and for
42 conduct of its business, not inconsistent with the provisions of
43 this act. The members of the Authority shall serve without salary
44 or compensation; however, their actual expenses incurred in the
45 performance of their duties may be reimbursed, including mileage
46 as authorized by law for county employees.

47 SECTION 3. The Authority shall develop an interactive,
48 technology-enhanced, education center to serve as a network to
49 link public, private and parochial schools and resource centers by
50 using specially modified phone lines or other technology. The
51 center shall provide a technical and academic partnership with all
52 public, private and parochial schools in order to enhance the
53 course offerings at such schools. The Authority may conduct
54 activities regarding other matters to support and enhance public,
55 private and parochial education.

56 SECTION 4. (1) The Authority shall have the following
57 powers and duties:

58 (a) To acquire by gift, purchase or otherwise, and to
59 own, hold, maintain, control and develop property within the
60 county for development, use and operation as an education center;

61 (b) To acquire, purchase, install, lease, finance,
62 construct, own, hold, equip, control, maintain, use, operate and
63 repair structures, facilities and equipment necessary and
64 convenient for the development and operation of an education
65 center;

66 (c) To fix and prescribe fees and charges for the use
67 of the services of the Authority and to collect fees and charges

68 from the users of such services;

69 (d) To employ such personnel as shall be reasonably
70 necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the
71 Authority as authorized by this act;

72 (e) To seek and receive financial assistance from any
73 source;

74 (f) To contract with any public, private or parochial
75 school for the use of the services of the Authority; and

76 (g) To contract with public and private entities for
77 the use of the services of the Authority.

78 (2) The enumeration of any specific powers and duties
79 contained in this act shall not be construed in a restrictive
80 sense but shall be construed in as broad and comprehensive a sense
81 as possible to effectuate the purposes of this act.

82 SECTION 5. The Board of Supervisors of Madison County,
83 Mississippi, in its discretion, is authorized to contribute funds,
84 from any available source, to the Madison County Education
85 Authority.

86 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after its passage.