

By: Smith

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2105

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.

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

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

11 (2) Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, in addition to
12 other funds allotted under the minimum education program, each
13 school district shall be allotted sufficient funding to employ one
14 (1) arts education instructor for every six hundred (600) pupils
15 in average daily attendance in Grades 9-12 in such school
16 district. Provided, however, that no school district's allotment
17 shall be less than the funds necessary to employ one (1) arts
18 education instructor. The State Department of Education may
19 increase the number of positions funded each year beyond the above
20 requirements as more funding is made available.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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