

By: Harden

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2860

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL GUIDANCE
3 COUNSELORS (K-12) BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT, TO PROVIDE
4 CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL
5 GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING
6 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO INCLUDE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND
7 PREVENTION; AND 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 | 1451-1600 |

25 (2) The State Department of Education may, however, increase
26 the number of positions funded each year beyond the above
27 requirements as money is made available.

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

29 the particular schools with 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 shall be employed as a school
35 guidance counselor without appropriate training and certification
36 as determined by the State Department of Education; and

37 (c) School guidance counselors shall be full-time
38 professional personnel, 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/social counseling;

44 (b) Student assessment and assessment counseling;

45 (c) Career and educational counseling;

46 (d) Individual and group counseling (large/small);

47 (e) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;

48 (f) Referrals to community agencies;

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

51 (h) Educational and career placement services; and

52 (i) Follow-up counseling services.

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

56 (6) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations
57 regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor as are
58 not inconsistent with this section.

59 SECTION 2. All new programs authorized in this act are
60 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated
61 therefor by the Legislature.

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