

By: Michel, Johnson (19th), Horhn, Blackmon To: Local and Private;
Education

SENATE BILL NO. 3342

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

27 Section 2. Before entering upon the duties of the office,
28 each member of such Authority, shall take and subscribe the oath
29 of office required by Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of
30 1890, and shall give bond in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars

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

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

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

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

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

65 (c) To fix and prescribe fees and charges for the use
66 of the services of the Authority and to collect fees and charges
67 from the users of such services;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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