MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE                        REGULAR SESSION 2001
By:  Representative Scott (80th) To:  Education;
                                      Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM  
EDUCATION PROGRAM TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVING THE HIGHEST  
INCIDENCES OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING  
SOCIAL WORKERS; TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
DETERMINE WHICH SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL RECEIVE SUCH ALLOTMENTS; TO  
REQUIRE SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED WITH THOSE FUNDS TO BE  
APPROPRIATELY LICENSED; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE  
ACTIVITIES OF THOSE SOCIAL WORKERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1.  (1)  Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year,  
the State Department of Education shall allot sufficient funding  
under the minimum education program to those school districts  
designated under subsection (2) of this section for the purpose of  
employing a social worker.

(2)  The State Department of Education shall designate school  
districts to receive an allotment for the purpose of employing a  
social worker.  The districts shall be selected by the department  
according to greatest need, as indicated by records of the State  
Department of Education and the Division of Youth Services of the  
Department of Human Services that reflect those school districts  
having the highest incidences of crime, violence, food stamp  
participation and unemployment.

(3)  The State Department of Education may increase the  
number of social worker positions funded each year beyond the  
above requirements as money is made available.

(4)  Any individual employed by a school district with funds  
allotted under this section must be appropriately licensed as a  
social worker under Section 73-53-1 et seq.  The State Department
of Education shall specify which license a social worker must hold
as a qualification for being employed in a position funded under
this section.

(5) To qualify for minimum education program funding, school
social workers must be full-time professional personnel and must
spend at least seventy-five percent (75%) of their work time in a
direct relationship with students. School social workers may not
devote more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the work day to
administrative activities related to their social work.

(6) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and
regulations regarding the activities of the school social workers.
School social workers may perform those services that are not
inconsistent with such rules and regulations.

(7) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district
from employing social workers with local funds.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2001.