

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Education;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

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

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

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

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

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

27 (4) Any individual employed by a school district with funds  
28 allotted under this section must be appropriately licensed as a  
29 social worker under Section 73-53-1 et seq. The State Department

30 of Education shall specify which license a social worker must hold  
31 as a qualification for being employed in a position funded under  
32 this section.

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

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

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

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