

By: Representative Morris (By Request)

To: Fees and Salaries of Public Officers

HOUSE BILL NO. 1343

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD TO ESTABLISH
2 COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAVE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES TO ENCOURAGE
3 VOLUNTEERISM IN SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI'S SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES,
4 CITIZENS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANNER IN
5 WHICH COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAVE MAY BE USED; TO REQUIRE THE STATE
6 PERSONNEL BOARD TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE POLICIES, RULES, PROCEDURES
7 AND CRITERIA FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING OF COMMUNITY
8 SERVICE LEAVE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) In recognition of the state's diverse needs
11 for volunteers to support schools, communities, citizens and
12 nonprofit organizations, and recognizing the commitment of state
13 employees to engage in volunteer service to the state, the State
14 Personnel Board shall establish a program for awarding community
15 service leave to state employees.

16 (2) Community service leave must be available to all
17 eligible state employees to encourage volunteerism in support of
18 Mississippi's schools, communities, citizens and nonprofit
19 organizations. Community service leave must be accounted for
20 under the provisions of a community service leave policy to be
21 promulgated by the State Personnel Board.

22 (3) State employees shall be awarded twenty-four (24) hours
23 of community service leave annually which may be used for
24 volunteer participation in the programs, services and
25 organizations described in this section. In lieu of the
26 twenty-four (24) hours of community service leave, an employee may
27 elect to receive an annual award equivalent to one (1) hour for
28 each week that a local public school is in session, as documented
29 by the school board of the local school district, which award must

30 be used exclusively for mentoring or tutoring students in
31 Mississippi schools. State employees may use all or part of their
32 annual allotment of community service leave for the following:

33 (a) **Leave for Child Involvement and School**
34 **Volunteerism.** Employees may use all or part of their annual
35 allotment of community service leave to volunteer support for
36 programs and services in public and private elementary, middle and
37 high schools and licensed public and private day care and
38 preschool settings. An employee may use this leave to meet with a
39 teacher or administrator concerning the employee's child or may
40 attend any educational function sponsored by the school in which
41 the child is participating.

42 (b) **Leave for Nonprofit Organization Volunteerism.**
43 Employees may use all or part of their annual allotment of
44 community service leave to volunteer time in nonprofit,
45 nonpartisan community organizations that are designated as
46 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code or human
47 services organizations licensed or accredited to serve citizens
48 with special needs, including children, youth and the elderly.

49 (c) **Leave for Tutoring and Mentoring in Mississippi**
50 **Schools.** Employees electing to receive one (1) hour of volunteer
51 leave for each week that public schools are in session in lieu of
52 an annual award of twenty-four (24) hours may use the leave
53 exclusively for tutoring or mentoring students in accordance with
54 standards, rules and guidelines jointly established for those
55 services by the employee's agency and local public school.

56 (4) The State Personnel Board shall develop appropriate
57 policies, rules, procedures and criteria for the administration
58 and reporting of community service leave.

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