

By: Senator(s) Smith, Hewes, Horhn

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2002

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM  
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING ARTS EDUCATION  
3 INSTRUCTORS IN GRADES 9-12 IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO DEFINE "ARTS  
4 EDUCATION"; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S  
5 CURRICULUM COORDINATOR OF MUSIC AND ART EDUCATION TO SUPERVISE  
6 SUCH ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. (1) For purposes of this section, "arts  
9 education" means instruction in the visual arts, music and  
10 dramatic arts.

11 (2) Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, in addition to  
12 other funds allotted under the minimum education program, each  
13 school district shall be allotted sufficient funding to employ one  
14 (1) arts education instructor for every six hundred (600) pupils  
15 in average daily attendance in Grades 9-12 in such school  
16 district. Provided, however, that no school district's allotment  
17 shall be less than the funds necessary to employ one (1) arts  
18 education instructor. The State Department of Education may  
19 increase the number of positions funded each year beyond the above  
20 requirements as more funding is made available.

21 (3) The assignment of such arts education instructors to the  
22 particular high school shall be at the discretion of the local  
23 school district with the following restrictions:

24 (a) The arts instructor/student ratio shall be no  
25 greater than 1:600; and

26 (b) No individual shall be employed as an arts  
27 education instructor without appropriate training and  
28 certification by the State Department of Education.



29           (4) To qualify for minimum program funding, high school arts  
30 education instructors shall be full-time professional personnel,  
31 shall spend at least seventy-five percent (75%) of work time in a  
32 direct arts instruction with pupils, and shall devote no more than  
33 one-fourth (1/4) of the work day to administrative activities  
34 which are arts education related.

35           (5) Nothing in this act shall prohibit any school district  
36 from employing with local funds more arts education instructors  
37 than are provided for in this act.

38           (6) The State Department of Education's Curriculum  
39 Coordinator of Music and Art Education, established under Section  
40 37-3-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall have responsibilities  
41 which include the oversight of new high school arts education  
42 programs funded under this act.

43           (7) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and  
44 regulations regarding the activities of the arts education  
45 instructors.

46           SECTION 2. All new programs authorized in this act are  
47 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated  
48 therefor by the Legislature.

49           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
50 and after July 1, 2001.

