SENATE BILL NO. 2832

AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM
EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL SOCIAL
WORKERS BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN
CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL 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, in
addition to other funds allotted under the minimum education
program, each school district shall be allotted funding to employ
one (1) school social worker for every two thousand (2,000)
students enrolled in the school district, or fraction thereof;
provided that each school district shall be eligible for at least
one (1) state-funded social worker.

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

(3) The assignment of state-funded social workers to the
particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion
of the local school board with the following restrictions:

(a) No individual shall be employed as a school social
worker without appropriate training and certification as
determined by the State Department of Education; and

(b) School social workers shall be full-time
professional personnel, shall spend a minimum of eighty-five
percent (85%) of work time in direct social worker relationships
with students.
(4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any school district from employing with local funds more school social workers than are provided for in this section.

(5) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations regarding the activities of the school social workers as are not inconsistent with this section.

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

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