HOUSE BILL NO. 644
(As Passed the House)

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING SERVICES TO BE
PROVIDED BY SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year,
the assignment of Grades K-12 school guidance counselors to the
particular schools within a school district is at the discretion
of the local school board subject to the following provisions:

(a) No individual may be employed as a school guidance
counselor without, at a minimum, a master's degree in guidance and
counseling, as determined by the State Department of Education;

(b) School guidance counselors must be full-time
personnel with, at a minimum, a master's degree in guidance and
counseling.

(2) School guidance counselors shall provide, at a minimum,
the following comprehensive counseling services:

(a) Academic and personal or social counseling;

(b) Crisis intervention and prevention counseling;

(c) Student assessment and assessment counseling;

(d) Career and educational counseling;

(e) Individual and group counseling (large or small
groups);

(f) Referrals to community agencies;

(g) Educational consultations and collaboration with
teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;

(h) Educational and career placement services;

(i) Follow-up counseling services;
ST: School guidance counselors; define comprehensive services to be provided in schools (version 2).

(j) Conflict resolution; and

(k) Other counseling duties or other duties as assigned by the school principal.

(3) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations regarding the activities of the school guidance counselors which are not inconsistent with this section.

(4) School guidance counselors shall abide by the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.