To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

BY: Senator(s) Huggins, Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins

SENATE BILL NO. 2664
(As Sent to Governor)

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIALIZED TREATMENT FACILITY FOR THE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED IN HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Specialized Treatment Facility for the Emotionally Disturbed, located in Harrison County, Mississippi, is recognized as now existing and shall be for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness. The facility shall have the power to receive and hold property, real, personal, and mixed, as a body corporate. The facility shall be under the direction and control of the State Board of Mental Health.

(2) Admissions shall be limited to mentally or emotionally disturbed adolescents who have been committed to the facility by a youth court judge or chancellor as provided in Section 41-21-109, or who are voluntarily admitted to the facility.

(3) With funds provided by the Legislature, by direct appropriation or authorized bond issue, with federal matching funds, or with any other available funds, the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management may construct and equip the necessary residential and service buildings and other facilities to care for the residents of the Specialized Treatment Facility for the Emotionally Disturbed. The general design of the facility and all construction plans shall be approved and recommended by the State Department of Mental Health.

(4) The Specialized Treatment Facility for the Emotionally Disturbed shall be administered by the State Board of Mental Health.
Health. Provisions relating to the admission and care of
residents at the facility shall be promulgated by the Board.

(5) The Specialized Treatment Facility for the Emotionally
Disturbed is authorized to establish and operate a school to meet
the educational needs of its patients.

(6) Persons admitted to the Specialized Treatment Facility
for the Emotionally Disturbed shall be assessed support and
maintenance costs in accordance with the provisions of the state
reimbursement laws as they apply to other state institutions.

(7) Any person who (a) knowingly and unlawfully or
improperly causes a person to be adjudged mentally ill, (b)
procures the escape of a legally committed patient or knowingly
conceals an escaped legally committed patient of the facility or
(c) unlawfully brings any firearm, deadly weapon or explosive into
the facility or its grounds, or passes any thereof to a resident,
employee or officer of the school, is guilty of a misdemeanor and,
upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than
Fifty Dollars ($50.00), or more than Two Hundred Dollars
($200.00), imprisonment for not less than six (6) months, or both.

(8) The Specialized Treatment Facility for the Emotionally
Disturbed is designated as a state agency for carrying out the
purposes of any act of the Congress of the United States, now
existing or at any time hereafter enacted, pertaining to mental
illness.

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