

By: Representative Scott (By Request)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MEMBERS OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO EXERT THEIR EFFORTS IN
3 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL
4 EDUCATION FROM AN AVERAGE FEDERAL SHARE OF 18% NATIONWIDE TO THE
5 40% LEVEL AUTHORIZED BY THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
6 EDUCATION ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 WHEREAS, the prosperity and well-being of the individual, the
8 family, the state and nation are dependent on the skill and
9 productive capacity of the individual; and

10 WHEREAS, special education develops an array of skills and
11 increases productive capacity of students with disabilities; and

12 WHEREAS, there are schools in Mississippi as well as in other
13 states with many underachieving special education students; and

14 WHEREAS, improvements in special education services are
15 necessary so that all Mississippians who need it and can profit by
16 it might have the opportunity to receive an appropriate level of
17 education to achieve a more productive life; and

18 WHEREAS, state and local educational agencies are mandated by
19 federal law to provide a free appropriate public education for
20 students with disabilities; and

21 WHEREAS, state and local school districts struggle with the
22 cost of providing services to students with disabilities, and
23 meeting those costs require a strong partnership between local,
24 state and federal government; and

25 WHEREAS, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of
26 1990, known as IDEA, authorizes for Part B, an appropriation of up
27 to 40% annually and less than 18% is currently being appropriated
28 annually; and

29 WHEREAS, according to the FY 2004 figures, Mississippi's
30 allocation is nearly \$104 million from Congress for Part B
31 services under IDEA; had Congress fully funded at the 40% level,
32 Mississippi's allocation would have exceeded \$200 million, thereby
33 providing additional funding improving the quality and range of
34 special education services:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
36 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
37 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the members of the Mississippi
38 Congressional Delegation for their support given to special
39 education in the past and urge their continued support and efforts
40 to obtain the full appropriation of 40% authorized under the
41 provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
42 within a two-year period.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be
44 instructed to immediately make available a certified copy of this
45 resolution to each member of the Mississippi Congressional
46 Delegation, a copy be furnished to the State Board of Education,
47 the State Superintendent of Education and to the members of the
48 Capitol Press Corps.