

By: Senator(s) Chaney,
King, Albritton, Brown,
Browning, Burton, Butler,
Carmichael, Clarke, Dawkins,
Dearing, Frazier, Gollott,
Harden, Hewes, Hyde-Smith,
Jackson (11th), Jackson
(15th), Jordan, Kirby, Lee
(35th), Lee (47th), Little,
Mettetal, Moffatt, Morgan,
Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey,
Ross, Thames, Thomas,
Tollison, Walls, White,
Wilemon, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 504

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN
3 MISSISSIPPI THAT WERE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA.

4 WHEREAS, the public school districts located on the
5 Mississippi Gulf Coast and in the other geographical areas of the
6 State of Mississippi declared a federal disaster area due to the
7 unprecedented damage of Hurricane Katrina are facing an
8 unprecedented loss of local revenue; and

9 WHEREAS, the enormity of the loss in local revenue due to the
10 decrease in assessed property, ad valorem tax valuation and
11 decreased tax receipts will affect these public school districts
12 and negatively impact the quality of education provided to
13 Mississippi children for several years; and

14 WHEREAS, it will be difficult for the state to make up this
15 loss to the local school districts, particularly in light of
16 continued requests to increase and maintain its contributions to
17 public school districts through 100% funding of the adequate
18 education program; and

19 WHEREAS, bankers, investors and insurance executives continue
20 to be concerned about the ability of local governments and school
21 districts affected by this hurricane to pay their outstanding
22 long-term debt; and

23 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Education has
24 submitted a plan of assistance to the United States Secretary of
25 Education and members of Congress, and the Mississippi Legislature

26 requests that federal financial assistance be provided for a
27 four-year period:

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
29 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
30 we respectfully request that the leadership and members of the
31 United States Congress take whatever actions necessary to adopt
32 measures that will provide much needed federal financial
33 assistance to public school districts in Mississippi to offset the
34 loss of local revenue needed to provide quality education to
35 Mississippi children impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
37 the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United
38 States Office of Education, members of the Mississippi
39 congressional delegation and the State Board of Education, and be
40 make available to the Capitol Press Corps.