

By: Representatives Dedeaux, Franks, Miles

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1042

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 DEVELOP A PLAN TO OPERATE A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL BUSES
3 USING BIODIESEL FUEL; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO ADDRESS ISSUES
4 RELATING TO COST, THE AVAILABILITY OF BIODIESEL IN THE STATE AND
5 OTHER MATTERS IN THE PLAN; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PRESENT
6 THE PLAN IN A REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE
7 JANUARY 1, 2007; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The State Department of Education shall develop a
10 plan under which no less than twenty percent (20%) of the public
11 school buses operated in this state may utilize biodiesel fuel.
12 In preparing the plan, the department shall study and address the
13 following issues:

14 (a) The total potential fuel costs for operating school
15 buses on biodiesel and whether or not the biodiesel fuel is more
16 cost efficient than those fuels currently utilized, determined by
17 comparing the fuel costs of school buses operating on biodiesel
18 with the costs of comparable school buses utilizing petroleum
19 diesel or gasoline;

20 (b) Whether the infrastructure required to support a
21 biodiesel fuel market, such as production and distribution
22 facilities, exists throughout the State of Mississippi and, if
23 not, which areas of the state do not have adequate facilities to
24 accommodate the local school districts' transportation
25 requirements;

26 (c) Those areas of the state which would benefit the
27 most from the utilization of biodiesel school buses, determined by
28 factors deemed relevant by the State Department of Education
29 including, but not necessarily limited to, the area's designation

30 as an area of concern for pollution emissions by the Environmental
31 Protection Agency;

32 (d) The means by which no less than twenty percent
33 (20%) of the total number of school buses owned and operated by
34 the various school districts and the State Department of Education
35 is to be achieved, including purchasing new school buses equipped
36 to operate on biodiesel when aging school buses are replaced,
37 modifying currently-owned, diesel powered school buses to operate
38 on biodiesel, or a combination of both. The department shall
39 include the estimated cost per school bus for the modifications
40 necessary to operate the bus on biodiesel; and

41 (e) Whether or not federal financial assistance is
42 available to the State Department of Education to help defray
43 costs incurred in purchasing biodiesel fuel for school bus
44 transportation purposes and how such federal funds, if any, may be
45 allocated to school districts that operate school buses fueled
46 with biodiesel.

47 The State Department of Education shall present the plan in a
48 written report that must be submitted to the Legislature before
49 January 1, 2007.

50 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2006.