

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 504

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL BOARDS TO EMPLOY AND FIX THE  
2 COMPENSATION OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGISTS  
3 TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE SCHOOL  
4 DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT EMPLOYS AT  
5 LEAST ONE SOCIAL WORKER OR PSYCHOLOGIST FOR EVERY ONE THOUSAND  
6 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT IS ELIGIBLE FOR  
7 REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF THE COST OF THE SALARY OF EACH  
8 SOCIAL WORKER OR PSYCHOLOGIST FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
9 EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of a school district may  
12 employ and fix the compensation of licensed social workers and  
13 licensed psychologists to provide services to the students in the  
14 schools of the school district, as determined by the  
15 superintendent of the district.

16 (2) A school district that employs at least one (1) social  
17 worker or psychologist per every one thousand (1,000) students  
18 enrolled in the schools of the district is eligible for  
19 reimbursement for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the salary of  
20 each such social worker or psychologist from the State Department  
21 of Education. The superintendent of any school district that is  
22 eligible for the reimbursement under this section shall apply to  
23 the State Department of Education for the reimbursement in a  
24 manner prescribed by the department. After receipt of an  
25 application for reimbursement and any information that may be  
26 required by the department, the department shall pay to the school  
27 district an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the  
28 salary of each social worker or psychologist for whom the district  
29 is eligible to be reimbursed. In making reimbursements to school  
30 districts for employing social workers and psychologists, the

31 department may use any funds specifically made available for that  
32 purpose.

33         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
34 and after July 1, 2007.