

By: Representatives Whittington, Holloway

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1455

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-9-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE PURPOSE
3 OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT
4 ENROLLMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-9-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-9-79. (1) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, in
9 addition to the funding allotted under the Adequate Education
10 Program, each school district shall be allotted funding to employ
11 school guidance counselors based upon the following formula:

<u>STATE-FUNDED COUNSELOR</u>	<u>STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL</u>
<u>1/2</u>	<u>1-150</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>151-250</u>
<u>1-1/2</u>	<u>251-400</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>401-550</u>
<u>2-1/2</u>	<u>551-700</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>701-850</u>
<u>3-1/2</u>	<u>851-1000</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>1001-1150</u>
<u>4-1/2</u>	<u>1151-1300</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>1301-1450</u>
<u>5-1/2</u>	<u>1451-1600</u>

24 (2) The assignment of K-12 school guidance counselors to the
25 particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion
26 of the local school board with the following restrictions:

27 (a) No individual shall be employed as a school
28 guidance counselor without a minimum of a Master's Degree in

29 Guidance and Counseling, or in an emergency situation, an
30 appropriate certification as determined by the Commission on
31 Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure
32 and Development; and

33 (b) School guidance counselors shall provide the
34 following comprehensive counseling services:

- 35 (i) Academic and personal/social counseling;
- 36 (ii) Student assessment and assessment counseling;
- 37 (iii) Career and educational counseling;
- 38 (iv) Individual and group counseling
39 (large/small);
- 40 (v) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;
- 41 (vi) Referrals to community agencies;
- 42 (vii) Educational consultations and collaboration
43 with teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;
- 44 (viii) Educational and career placement services;
- 45 (ix) Follow-up counseling services;
- 46 (x) Conflict resolution; and
- 47 (xi) Other counseling duties or other duties as
48 assigned by the school principal.

49 (3) School guidance counselors shall abide by the American
50 School Counselor Association Code of Ethics.

51 (4) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations
52 regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor as are
53 not inconsistent with this section.

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