

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2803

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADEQUATE  
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL GUIDANCE  
3 COUNSELORS (K-12) BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT, TO PROVIDE  
4 CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL  
5 GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND TO PRESCRIBE THE COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING  
6 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO INCLUDE CRISIS INTERVENTION AND  
7 PREVENTION AND DROPOUT PREVENTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, in  
10 addition to other funds allotted under the minimum education  
11 program, each school district shall be allotted funding to employ  
12 school guidance counselors in Grades K-12 based upon the following  
13 formula:

14	STATE-FUNDED COUNSELOR	STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL
15	1/2	1-150
16	1	151-250
17	1-1/2	251-400
18	2	401-550
19	2-1/2	551-700
20	3	701-850
21	3-1/2	851-1000
22	4	1001-1150
23	4-1/2	1151-1300
24	5	1301-1450
25	5-1/2	1451-1600

26 (2) The State Department of Education may, however, increase  
27 the number of positions funded each year beyond the above  
28 requirements as money is made available.

29           (3) The assignment of state-funded guidance counselors to  
30 the particular schools with the district shall be at the  
31 discretion of the local school board with the following  
32 restrictions:

33           (a) The counselor/student ratio shall be no greater  
34 than 1:250;

35           (b) No individual shall be employed as a school  
36 guidance counselor without appropriate training and certification  
37 as determined by the State Department of Education; and

38           (c) School guidance counselors shall be full-time  
39 professional personnel, shall spend a minimum of eighty-five  
40 percent (85%) of work time in direct counseling relationships with  
41 students.

42           (4) State-funded school counselors shall provide the  
43 following comprehensive counseling services:

44           (a) Academic and personal/social counseling;

45           (b) Student assessment and assessment counseling;

46           (c) Career and educational counseling;

47           (d) Individual and group counseling (large/small);

48           (e) Crisis intervention and preventive counseling;

49           (f) Dropout prevention counseling;

50           (g) Referrals to community agencies;

51           (h) Educational consultation and collaboration with  
52 teachers, administrators, parents and community leaders;

53           (i) Educational and career placement services; and

54           (j) Follow-up counseling services.

55           (5) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any school  
56 district from employing with local funds more school guidance  
57 counselors than are provided for in this section.

58           (6) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations  
59 regarding the activities of the school guidance counselor as are  
60 not inconsistent with this section.

61           **SECTION 2.** All new programs authorized in this act are  
62 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated  
63 therefor by the Legislature.

64           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
65 and after July 1, 2007.