

By: Senator(s) Turner

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2978

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO DETERMINE A LEVEL OF "LIVING  
2 WAGE" FOR EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL IN MISSISSIPPI AND TO  
3 DEVELOP A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND 2008 REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
4 LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Commission to Determine  
7 A Level of "Living Wage" for Education Support Personnel in  
8 Mississippi, which shall be composed of the following members:

9 (a) Two (2) education support personnel employed in the  
10 Mississippi public schools appointed by the Governor;

11 (b) One (1) certified teacher employed in the  
12 Mississippi public schools appointed by the Governor;

13 (c) One (1) school superintendent appointed by the  
14 State Board of Education;

15 (d) One (1) local school board member appointed by the  
16 State Board of Education;

17 (e) The Chairman of the Senate Education Committee;

18 (f) The Chairman of the House Education Committee;

19 (g) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations  
20 Committee;

21 (h) The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee;

22 and

23 (i) The State Superintendent of Education.

24 (2) All members of the commission shall be designated or  
25 appointed in sufficient time to allow for all members of the  
26 commission to be identified prior to the first meeting of the  
27 commission. The first meeting of the commission shall be not  
28 later than July 1, 2007, on the call of the State Superintendent

29 of Education who shall serve as chairman of the commission in  
30 order to organize and elect a chairman and vice chairman from its  
31 membership and adopt rules for transacting its business.

32 (3) The duties of the commission shall be to determine the  
33 status of education support personnel in the public schools of  
34 Mississippi, and determine a basic living wage for the various  
35 classifications of education support personnel. The commission  
36 shall make appropriate findings and recommendations regarding  
37 adequate funding requirements for the appropriate wage for  
38 education support personnel, and develop a report with necessary  
39 legislation to be developed and presented to the Governor and to  
40 the Legislature for consideration during the 2008 Regular Session.

41 (4) The State Department of Education shall provide  
42 appropriate staff support to the commission. All agencies,  
43 departments, offices and institutions of the state shall cooperate  
44 with the commission and provide such assistance as requested by  
45 the commission.

46 (5) Upon presentation of its report required herein, the  
47 commission shall be dissolved.

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