

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MADAM PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 238: Appropriation; Department of Education - General Programs, Education Reform Act and Vocational Education.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 **SECTION 1.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
7 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in the State
8 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of
9 funding K-12 and other related educational activities, including
10 certain agencies and programs, in the State of Mississippi, for
11 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008,
12 as follows:

13 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
14 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education, and
15 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
16 Division..... \$ 99,279,413.00.

17 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
18 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
19 Division of the State Department of Education.....
20 \$ 77,598,146.00.

21 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
22 paying annual compensation to the Chickasaw Cession counties for
23 sixteenth section lands which they lost through sale by the state,
24 as provided in Section 29-3-137 through 29-3-141, Mississippi Code
25 of 1972..... \$ 13,880,990.00.

26 (d) To the State Board of Education for defraying the
27 expenses of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....
28 \$ 2,010,150,809.00.

29 (e) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
30 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi School for the Blind and
31 the Mississippi School for the Deaf..... \$ 12,296,159.00.

32 TOTAL AMOUNT OF STATE GENERAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
33 BY THIS SECTION BEING..... \$ 2,213,205,517.00.

34 **SECTION 2.** The following sums, or so much of those sums as
35 may be necessary, are appropriated out of any money in any special
36 fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or
37 funds of the agencies or programs specified in the following
38 paragraphs for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, and ending
39 June 30, 2008, as follows:

40 (a) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
41 defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,
42 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
43 Division..... \$ 734,000,668.00.

44 (b) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
45 defraying the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
46 Division of the State Department of Education.....
47 \$ 23,959,127.00.

48 (c) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
49 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi Adequate Education
50 Program..... \$ 247,001,926.00.

51 (d) To the State Board of Education for the purpose of
52 defraying the expenses of the Mississippi School for the Blind and
53 the Mississippi School for the Deaf..... \$ 766,136.00.

54 TOTAL AMOUNT OF SPECIAL FUNDS APPROPRIATED
55 BY THIS SECTION BEING..... \$ 1,005,727,857.00.

56 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, One
57 Hundred Twenty-six Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-two Dollars

58 (\$126,472.00), or so much of that sum as may be necessary, is
 59 appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit
 60 of the Health Care Expendable Fund to the State Department of
 61 Education for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the
 62 department for the Mississippi Eye Screening Program for providing
 63 vision safety services.

64 **SECTION 4.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, the
 65 following sums, or so much of those sums as may be necessary, are
 66 derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of
 67 the Education Enhancement Fund pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and
 68 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, as follows:

69 (a) To the State Department of Education, excluding the
 70 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division, for
 71 the following purposes:

72	Grants to school districts for capital	
73	facilities and buses.....	\$ 16,000,000.00.
74	Instructional materials.....	\$ 6,194,875.00.
75	Tech prep bond service.....	\$ 3,200,662.00.
76	Implementing Performance Based Data	
77	Collection and Accreditation	
78	Model.....	\$ 274,937.00.
79	World Class Teacher Program.....	\$ 125,000.00.
80	Testing.....	\$ 226,413.00.
81	Education Technology Council.....	\$ 94,082.00.
82	TOTAL.....	\$ 26,115,969.00.

83 (b) To the State Department of Education to defray the
 84 expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division.....
 85 \$ 7,863,746.00.

86 (c) To the State Department of Education to provide
 87 funding for the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.....
 88 \$177,001,926.00.

89 **SECTION 5.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, not more
 90 than the amounts set forth below shall be expended for the
 91 respective major objects or purposes of expenditure for the State
 92 Department of Education, excluding the expenses of the Vocational
 93 and Technical Education Division:

94 MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE:

95 Personal Services:

96	Salaries, Wages and Fringe Benefits.. \$	30,302,650.00
97	Travel and Subsistence.....	2,130,074.00
98	Contractual Services.....	42,438,896.00
99	Commodities.....	7,395,199.00

100 Capital Outlay:

101	Other Than Equipment.....	1,519,500.00
102	Equipment.....	2,353,522.00
103	Vehicles.....	30,000.00
104	Wireless Communication Devices.....	0.00
105	Subsidies, Loans and Grants.....	<u>747,110,240.00</u>
106	Total..... \$	833,280,081.00

107 FUNDING:

108	General Funds..... \$	99,279,413.00
109	Special Funds.....	<u>734,000,668.00</u>
110	Total..... \$	833,280,081.00

111 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

112	Permanent: Full Time.....	468
113	Part Time.....	3
114	Time-Limited: Full Time.....	79
115	Part Time.....	0

116 **SECTION 6.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
 117 State Superintendent for the Department of Education, excluding
 118 the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education Division,
 119 may increase major objects of expenditure in total amounts not to
 120 exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the appropriated amount of

121 each major object of expenditure, provided that other major
 122 objects of expenditure are decreased by a corresponding dollar
 123 amount and provided the Executive Director of the Mississippi
 124 Department of Finance and Administration also approves with
 125 written authorization. However, no transfers shall be authorized
 126 that increase the major object of expenditure "Salaries, Wages and
 127 Fringe Benefits."

128 **SECTION 7.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 129 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 130 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be
 131 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
 132 achieve the intended mission of the State Department of Education,
 133 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
 134 Division. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make
 135 every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided
 136 below:

	FY2008
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Special Education	
Approved Funding for Children (\$ in millions)	100.80
Teacher Units Approved for Funding (Units)	4,672
Child Nutrition	
Number of Meals Required (Millions)	122
Cost per Meal (\$)	2.40
MS School For Math & Science	
Students Enrolled (Persons)	270
Cost per Student (\$)	16,500.00
Educational Accountability	
Performance Accreditation Visits (Visits)	35
Tests Administered (Persons)	545,679
Compliance & Performance Reviews (Actions)	30
Educ Training & Development	

153	Administrators Trained (Persons)	1,000
154	Administrators Trained (%)	35
155	Technical Assistance to School Districts (%)	95
156	Compensatory Education	
157	Title I Projects Awarded (Programs)	152
158	Average Expenditure per Child (\$)	612
159	Review & Approve Delinquent Prgs (Programs)	6
160	Community & Outreach Services	
161	Requested Available Federal Funding (%)	100
162	MS School Attendance Officers	
163	Resolutions to Referrals (%)	92
164	School Visits (Number of)	25,000
165	MS Teacher Center	
166	Teachers Recruited in Shortage Areas (Number)	1,900
167	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
168	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
169	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
170	Committee for Fiscal Year 2009.	
171	SECTION 8. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance	
172	Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of	
173	the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be	
174	utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to	
175	achieve the intended mission of the Mississippi Adequate Education	
176	Program. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make	
177	every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided	
178	below:	
179		FY2008
180	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
181	Basic Program	
182	Percentage of students scoring basic and	
183	above on the MS Curriculum Test in grades 2-8	
184	in reading, language and math (%)	93.7

185 Percentage of students achieving the passing
186 score on the History Test (%) 96.6
187 Percentage of students achieving the passing
188 score on the Biology test (%) 94.8
189 Percentage of students achieving the passing
190 score on the Algebra test (%) 94.6
191 Provide 100% Funding of the Base Student Cost 100
192 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
193 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
194 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
195 Committee for Fiscal Year 2009.

196 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Forty-six
197 Million Dollars (\$46,000,000.00) shall be derived from the School
198 Ad Valorem Reduction Fund.

199 No school district shall expend any funds, received under the
200 School Ad Valorem Reduction Grant, unless such school district has
201 specifically identified the amount of the grant within the
202 published budget as required by Section 37-61-9, Mississippi Code
203 of 1972. The published budget shall include the following
204 statement: "Ad Valorem taxes will be \$_____ less as a result
205 of the Ad Valorem Reduction Grants enacted by the Mississippi
206 Legislature in 1992."

207 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Two
208 Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,100,000.00) shall be
209 derived from the Technology in Classroom Fund 3203 for the purpose
210 of defraying the expenses of the State Department of Education,
211 excluding the expenses of the Vocational and Technical Education
212 Division.

213 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, funds in
214 the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall come from
215 income derived from the principal of the Education Improvement
216 Trust Fund created by Section 206A, Mississippi Constitution of

217 1890, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be used for
218 the School for Math and Science.

219 **SECTION 12.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the
220 following positions are authorized for the Vocational and
221 Technical Education Division of the State Department of Education:

222 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

223	Permanent:	Full Time.....	59
224		Part Time.....	0
225	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	3
226		Part Time.....	0

227 **SECTION 13.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
228 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
229 the Legislature that the funds provided in this act shall be
230 utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to
231 achieve the intended mission of the Vocational and Technical
232 Education Division of the State Department of Education. Based on
233 the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to
234 attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

235		FY2008
236	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
237	Secondary Programs	
238	Increase in Students Served (%)	1.00
239	LEAs Served (Sites)	144
240	Post-secondary Programs	
241	Short-Term Students Served (Persons)	2,800
242	Short-Term Adult Program Classes (Classes)	225
243	Short-Term Cost per Student (\$)	65.00

244 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
245 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
246 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
247 Committee for Fiscal Year 2009.

248 **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
249 not to exceed Two Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand Six Hundred
250 Eighty-four Dollars (\$229,684.00) is authorized for the support of
251 vocational and technical education programs as authorized in
252 Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, for a period in excess
253 of ten (10) months in a calendar year.

254 **SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
255 Vocational and Technical Education Division of the State
256 Department of Education shall, with the funds appropriated in
257 Section 1, transfer no more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars
258 (\$100,000.00) to the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation
259 Commission for the purpose of providing matching funds to purchase
260 soil conservation equipment.

261 **SECTION 16.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, no more
262 than One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Seventy-five Dollars
263 (\$118,075.00) is provided for the purpose of supporting the Future
264 Farmers of America Center.

265 **SECTION 17.** Of the funds provided in Section 1 for the
266 purpose of providing financial assistance for the education of
267 exceptional children as determined under Section 37-23-63,
268 Mississippi Code of 1972, children who are certified by the
269 designated authority as requiring inpatient care in a private
270 intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded or
271 psychiatric residential treatment facility, with Medicaid
272 reimbursement, shall be eligible and entitled to receive state
273 financial assistance under the provisions of Section 37-23-69, in
274 an amount not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from
275 state funds, per child per school year, if an approved private
276 school is operated as an integral part of the facility that
277 provides twenty-four (24) hours a day monitoring, treatment and
278 education, except that the State Department of Education is
279 authorized to pilot a fee-for-service based cost system.

280 **SECTION 18.** Of the funds provided in Section 1, Two Hundred
281 Twenty-four Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-six Dollars (\$224,496.00)
282 shall be used to provide for a Director of School Nurses in the
283 State Department of Education and the implementation of three (3)
284 pilot projects for a variety of school health programs in an
285 elementary school setting. Evaluations shall be developed to
286 determine the program's effect to drop-out rates, suspensions,
287 expulsions, attendance and test scores.

288 Income generated by the school-based clinics shall remain
289 available for expenditure by the programs utilizing any special
290 fund authority provided in Section 2 for use by the State
291 Department of Education and the pilots shall remain the same as in
292 Fiscal Year 2007.

293 **SECTION 19.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
294 State Department of Education shall have the authority to accept,
295 budget and expend any source funds not to exceed Thirty Million
296 Dollars (\$30,000,000.00), that become available to the department
297 to carry out the provisions of those funds in a manner consistent
298 with the rules and regulations of the Department of Finance and
299 Administration.

300 **SECTION 20.** The State Department of Education shall transfer
301 the designated amounts to the appropriate entities, which shall
302 assume full responsibility for the expenditure of these funds in
303 accordance with state laws and accept all responsibility for any
304 improper expenditure, for the following: World Class Teacher
305 Programs, USM Special Education Program, Soil and Water
306 Conservation Commission, Mississippi School Boards Association,
307 Mississippi Eye Screening Program-Vision Research Corporation and
308 Very Special Arts, Arts Institute, Jobs for Mississippi Graduates,
309 and Mississippi Symphony, University of Southern Mississippi Safe
310 Schools Program, Mississippi State University Center for Education

311 Design, Writing and Thinking Institute, Greater Columbus Early
312 Learning Center and Mississippi Council for Economic Education.

313 **SECTION 21.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Two
314 Hundred Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$235,000.00) is provided for
315 the Writing and Thinking Institute, Seventy Thousand Dollars
316 (\$70,000.00) is provided for the Very Special Arts Program and One
317 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided for the
318 Mississippi Council for Economic Education.

319 **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
320 not to exceed One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars
321 (\$1,300,000.00) shall be used for technological methods for
322 agricultural programs from the Vocational and Technical Education
323 Division of the State Department of Education.

324 **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, the sum
325 of Sixty-two Thousand One Hundred Ninety-one Dollars (\$62,191.00),
326 which is the aggregate sum that the school districts in the
327 Chickasaw Cession receive annually from interest payments from the
328 Chickasaw School Fund under Section 212, Mississippi Constitution
329 of 1890, shall be deducted from the allocations to the school
330 districts as provided in Section 29-3-137, Mississippi Code of
331 1972, and shall be distributed among the school districts in the
332 Chickasaw Cession by the State Department of Education in the
333 manner that those interest payments were distributed during Fiscal
334 Year 1985.

335 **SECTION 24.** Of the funds provided in this act for the
336 purpose of funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program as
337 determined under Section 37-151-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, the
338 base student cost in Fiscal Year 2008 shall be Four Thousand Five
339 Hundred Seventy-four Dollars (\$4,574.00).

340 **SECTION 25.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, an amount
341 not more than Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) shall be
342 derived from the Interim School District Capital Expenditure Fund

343 for the benefit of the school districts as authorized in
344 Mississippi Code Annotated, Section 37-151-7(5).

345 **SECTION 26.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, it is the
346 intention of the Legislature that Twenty Million Dollars
347 (\$20,000,000.00) from the Public School Building Fund shall be
348 used for the Mississippi Adequate Education Program.

349 **SECTION 27.** With the funds appropriated in this act, the
350 following positions are authorized for the Mississippi School for
351 the Blind and the Mississippi School for the Deaf:

352 AUTHORIZED POSITIONS:

353	Permanent:	Full Time.....	194
354		Part Time.....	30
355	Time-Limited:	Full Time.....	1
356		Part Time.....	0

357 Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and Section 2 for the
358 Mississippi School for the Blind and the Mississippi School for
359 the Deaf, not more than One Hundred Forty-five Thousand Dollars
360 (\$145,000.00) shall be expended for vehicle purchases.

361 **SECTION 28.** With the funds provided in this act, it is the
362 intention of the Legislature that School Attendance Officers and
363 academic teachers at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and the
364 Mississippi School for the Blind shall receive their annual
365 increment.

366 **SECTION 29.** Funds are provided herein to adjust the Variable
367 Compensation Plan to ensure that all full-time employees receive a
368 pay increase equal to the realignment component of the Variable
369 Compensation Plan or One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
370 (\$1,500.00), whichever is greater, to be awarded on July 1, 2007.

371 With the funds herein appropriated, it is the intention of
372 the Legislature that it shall be the agency's responsibility to
373 make certain that funds required to be appropriated for "Personal
374 Services" for Fiscal Year 2009 do not exceed Fiscal Year 2008

375 funds appropriated for that purpose, unless programs or positions
376 are added to the agency's Fiscal Year 2008 budget by the
377 Mississippi Legislature. Based on data provided by the
378 Legislative Budget Office, the State Personnel Board shall
379 determine and publish the projected annual cost to fully fund all
380 appropriated positions in compliance with the provisions of this
381 act. It shall be the responsibility of the agency head to insure
382 that no single personnel action increases this projected annual
383 cost and/or the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations for "Personal
384 Services" when annualized, with the exception of escalated funds
385 and educational benchmarks. If, at the time the agency takes any
386 action to change "Personal Services", the State Personnel Board
387 determines that the agency has taken an action which would cause
388 the agency to exceed this projected annual cost or the Fiscal Year
389 2008 "Personal Services" appropriated level, when annualized, then
390 only those actions which reduce the projected annual cost and/or
391 the appropriation requirement will be processed by the State
392 Personnel Board until such time as the requirements of this
393 provision are met. On January 1, 2008, the State Personnel Board
394 will make adjustments to the structure side of the compliance
395 report based on data provided by the Legislative Budget Office in
396 order for agencies to award educational benchmarks.

397 Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with
398 the terms, conditions and procedures established by law or
399 allowable under the terms set forth within this act. The State
400 Personnel Board shall not escalate positions without written
401 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration. The
402 Department of Finance and Administration shall not provide written
403 approval to escalate any funds for salaries and/or positions
404 without proof of availability of new or additional funds above the
405 appropriated level.

406 No general funds authorized to be expended herein shall be
407 used to replace federal funds and/or other special funds which are
408 being used for salaries authorized under the provisions of this
409 act and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

410 **SECTION 30.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
411 State Board of Education shall maintain complete accounting and
412 personnel records related to the expenditure of all funds
413 appropriated in this act and that those records shall be in the
414 same format and level of details as maintained for Fiscal Year
415 2007. It is further the intention of the Legislature that the
416 budget requests for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be submitted to the
417 Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail
418 comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the
419 Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process for each agency and
420 institution appropriated funds within the provisions of this act.

421 **SECTION 31.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 to the
422 State Board of Education, not less than Twenty-one Million Eight
423 Hundred Ninety-seven Thousand Forty-eight Dollars (\$21,897,048.00)
424 shall be used for National Board Certification.

425 **SECTION 32.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
426 necessary, is hereby reappropriated out of any money in the State
427 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the State Board of
428 Education for defraying the cost of the National Board
429 Certification Program, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007,
430 and ending June 30, 2008..... \$ 1,500,000.00.

431 **SECTION 33.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less
432 than Fourteen Million Sixty-five Thousand Dollars (\$14,065,000.00)
433 shall be used for the Educable Child Program.

434 **SECTION 34.** It is the intention of the Legislature that at
435 least Twenty-one Million Dollars (\$21,000,000.00) be expended for
436 textbooks as defined in Section 37-43-1, Mississippi Code of 1972.

437 No funds shall be expended under authority of this act unless the
438 Mississippi Department of Education surveys each school district
439 to determine the dollar amount and description of its textbook
440 purchases. A report of such findings shall be provided to the
441 chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees no later
442 than December 31, 2007.

443 **SECTION 35.** The public school districts of the state are
444 authorized at their discretion to pay with local funds one hundred
445 percent (100%) of the cost of the health insurance premiums of the
446 State and School Employees Health Insurance Plan for all retired
447 members of the Public Employees' Retirement System who are
448 employed as school bus drivers by the school districts. It is the
449 intention of the Legislature that no state funds shall be used for
450 this purpose.

451 **SECTION 36.** Of the funds appropriated for Fiscal Year 2008
452 for the Educable Child Program, the Mississippi Department of
453 Education is authorized to pay the remaining balance up to Two
454 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for fiscal year 2007 claims.

455 **SECTION 37.** Of the funds appropriated for Orthopedic and
456 Aphasic, Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) shall be for
457 the Dubard School at the University of Southern Mississippi.

458 **SECTION 38.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
459 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
460 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
461 stated in those received bids are equal with respect to price,
462 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
463 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
464 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
465 made without competitive bids.

466 **SECTION 39.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in
467 any year that the Mississippi Adequate Education Program is not

468 fully funded, the State Department of Education shall prorate the
469 underfunded amount to local school districts for that year.

470 **SECTION 40.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, not less
471 than Six Million Seven Hundred Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred
472 Fifty-three Dollars (\$6,713,653.00) shall be used for the
473 Compulsory School Attendance Office and School Attendance
474 Officers.

475 **SECTION 41.** Of the funds appropriated in this act for the
476 Mississippi Adequate Education Program, funds of not more than Two
477 Million Ten Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-three Dollars
478 (\$2,010,383.00) are provided to be set aside as a mechanism to
479 hold harmless those local school districts that receive less than
480 the funding levels that they received for fiscal year 2007.

481 **SECTION 42.** Funds are provided in this act to defray the
482 expenses of a task force to evaluate the programs, services and
483 funding for students considered to be "at-risk." No funds shall
484 be expended under authority of this act unless the task force
485 studies, at a minimum, the issues of at-risk students as defined
486 in the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP), dyslexia and
487 other related diagnosable learning challenges, early childhood
488 pre-kindergarten programs, mentoring programs, and the funding for
489 these and other associated programs.

490 The eleven-member task force is to be comprised of the
491 following members: Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations
492 Committees, Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees,
493 three (3) members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, three (3)
494 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
495 and one (1) member appointed by the Governor. The first meeting
496 of the task force will be held no later than July 1, 2007. At
497 that meeting, members will elect a chairman. No funds shall be
498 expended under authority of this act unless the task force files a
499 report to the Legislature no later than January 2, 2008. The task

500 force will maintain minutes and records of each meeting, which are
501 to become a part of the final report.

502 **SECTION 43.** Local school districts shall provide a report to
503 the Mississippi Department of Education no later than September
504 30, 2007, which shall outline the types of at-risk programs
505 provided in their schools for both state appropriations for
506 at-risk students and for expenditures of federal funds designated
507 for the programs serving students identified as at-risk. The
508 report shall provide an overview of how school districts shall
509 measure the impact and effectiveness of at-risk programs and the
510 expenditure of these funds.

511 **SECTION 44.** The Mississippi Department of Education shall
512 evaluate the associated costs and programmatic needs for expanding
513 the Mississippi Virtual Public School to encompass all grades,
514 K-12, and shall provide a report to the Legislature on such
515 expansion no later than January 2, 2008. The report shall propose
516 a timeline for establishing full-course curricula for grades K-8.
517 The Mississippi Department of Education shall conduct interviews
518 and analyses with prominent providers that offer these services.
519 The services to conduct this report may be outsourced.

520 **SECTION 45.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, no more
521 than One Hundred Ninety-two Thousand Dollars (\$192,000.00) is
522 provided for the purpose of supporting the "You've Got to Move"
523 Program for Grades K-2.

524 **SECTION 46.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), One
525 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) is provided for the
526 Principal Corp.

527 **SECTION 47.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1(a), Three
528 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) is provided for the
529 Magnolia Speech School.

530 **SECTION 48.** Of the funds appropriated in this act, up to One
531 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) may be used from the State

532 Department of Education's operating budget for contractual
533 services for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Virtual
534 School Program for Grades K-8.

535 **SECTION 49.** The money appropriated in this act shall be paid
536 by the State Treasurer out of any money in the proper fund or
537 funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State
538 Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his
539 warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or
540 officers in the manner provided by law.

541 **SECTION 50.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
542 and after July 1, 2007.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING
2 K-12 AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING CERTAIN
3 AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, FOR THE FISCAL
4 YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Brown

X (SIGNED)
Chaney

(NOT SIGNED)
Myers

X (SIGNED)
Burton