

By: Representative Scott

To: Education;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 839

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

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of a school district may
11 employ licensed social workers and licensed psychologists to
12 provide services to students enrolled in and in attendance at the
13 schools of the school district, as determined by the
14 superintendent of the district. The school board shall fix the
15 compensation of a social worker or psychologist employed by the
16 district under this section.

17 (2) A school district that employs at least one (1) social
18 worker or psychologist for every one thousand (1,000) students
19 enrolled in the schools of the district is eligible for
20 reimbursement for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the salary of
21 each social worker or psychologist from the State Department of



22 Education. The superintendent of any school district that is
23 eligible for the reimbursement under this section shall apply to
24 the State Department of Education for the reimbursement in a
25 manner prescribed by the department. After receipt of an
26 application for reimbursement and any information that may be
27 required by the department, the department shall pay to the school
28 district an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the cost of the
29 salary of each social worker and psychologist for whom the
30 district is eligible to be reimbursed. In making reimbursements
31 to school districts for employing social workers and
32 psychologists, the department may use any funds specifically made
33 available for that purpose.

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
35 and after July 1, 2024.

