

By: Representatives Scott (80th), Bailey,  
Banks, Bozeman, Broomfield, Clark, Clarke,  
Coleman (65th), Evans, Middleton, Myers,  
Smith (27th), Thomas, Thornton, Walker,  
Watson

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1390

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM  
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE 50 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVING THE HIGHEST  
3 INCIDENCES OF CRIME AND VIOLENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING  
4 SOCIAL WORKERS; TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
5 DETERMINE WHICH SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL RECEIVE SUCH ALLOTMENTS; TO  
6 REQUIRE SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED WITH SUCH FUNDS TO BE  
7 APPROPRIATELY LICENSED; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
8 EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE  
9 ACTIVITIES OF SUCH SOCIAL WORKERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year,  
12 the State Department of Education shall allot sufficient funding  
13 under the minimum education program to those school districts  
14 designated pursuant to subsection (2) of this section for the  
15 purpose of employing a social worker.

16 (2) The State Department of Education shall designate fifty  
17 (50) school districts to receive an allotment for the purpose of  
18 employing a social worker. The districts shall be selected by the  
19 department according to greatest need, as indicated by records of  
20 the State Department of Education and the Division of Youth  
21 Services of the Department of Human Services which reflect those  
22 school districts having the highest incidences of crime and  
23 violence.

24 (3) The State Department of Education may increase the  
25 number of social worker positions funded each year beyond the  
26 above requirements as money is made available.

27 (4) Any individual employed by a school district with funds  
28 allotted pursuant to this section must be appropriately licensed  
29 as a social worker under Sections 73-53-1 through 73-53-29. The

30 State Department of Education shall specify which license a social  
31 worker must hold as a qualification to being employed in a  
32 position funded under this section.

33 (5) To qualify for minimum program funding, school social  
34 workers must be full-time professional personnel and must spend at  
35 least seventy-five percent (75%) of their work time in a direct  
36 relationship with students. School social workers may not devote  
37 more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the work day to  
38 administrative activities related to their social work.

39 (6) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district  
40 from employing social workers with local funds.

41 (7) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and  
42 regulations regarding the activities of the school social workers.  
43 School social workers may perform those services that are not  
44 inconsistent with such rules and regulations.

45 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
46 and after July 1, 1999.