

By: Flaggs

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 16

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL SOCIAL
3 WORKERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. (1) Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year,
6 the State Department of Education shall allot sufficient funding
7 under the minimum education program to each school district for
8 the purpose of employing school social workers.

9 (2) The State Department of Education shall determine the
10 amount of the additional allotment for employing a school social
11 worker or workers, considering the needs of school districts, as
12 indicated by records of the State Department of Education and the
13 Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services
14 which reflect incidences of crime and violence.

15 (3) The State Department of Education may increase the
16 number of social worker positions funded each year as money is
17 made available.

18 (4) Any individual employed by a school district with funds
19 allotted pursuant to this section must be appropriately licensed
20 as a social worker under Sections 73-53-1 through 73-53-29. The
21 State Department of Education shall specify which license a social

22 worker must hold as a qualification to being employed in a
23 position funded under this section.

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

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

32 (7) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and
33 regulations regarding the activities of the school social workers.
34 School social workers may perform those services that are not
35 inconsistent with such rules and regulations.

36 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 2000.