

By: Representative Eads (By Request)

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 626

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE MINIMUM
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL COUNSELORS;
3 TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS IN EACH SUBSEQUENT
4 FISCAL YEAR UNTIL EACH SCHOOL HAS EMPLOYED AT LEAST ONE COUNSELOR;
5 TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO ASSIGN SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO
6 PARTICULAR SCHOOLS; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
7 TO EMPLOY A SUPERVISOR OF COUNSELORS AND TO ISSUE REGULATIONS
8 REGARDING THE SERVICES OF SUCH COUNSELORS; AND FOR RELATED
9 PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. (1) Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, in
12 addition to other funds allotted under the minimum education
13 program, each school district shall be allotted sufficient funding
14 to employ one (1) school counselor for each five hundred (500)
15 students in average daily attendance, with funding for an
16 additional school counselor to be allotted per fiscal year until
17 each school in the school district has one (1) state-funded
18 counselor. However, until the time that there is a counselor in
19 every school at a counselor:student ratio of 1:500 or greater, the
20 annual appropriation for counselors shall not be reduced.

21 (2) The State Department of Education may increase the
22 number of positions funded each year beyond the above requirements
23 as money is made available.

24 (3) The assignment of the school counselors to the
25 particular schools shall be at the discretion of the local school
26 district with the following restrictions:

27 (a) The counselor:student ratio shall be no less than
28 1:500, or one (1) counselor per school building, whichever is
29 greater.



30 (b) No individual shall be employed as a school
31 counselor without appropriate training and certification as a
32 school counselor by the State Department of Education.

33 (4) To qualify for minimum program funding, school
34 counselors shall be full-time professional personnel, shall spend
35 at least seventy-five percent (75%) of work time in a direct
36 counseling relationship with pupils, and shall devote no more than
37 one-fourth (1/4) of the work day to administrative activities
38 which are counselor related.

39 (5) Nothing in this act shall prohibit any school district
40 from employing with local funds more school counselors than are
41 provided for in this act.

42 (6) The State Department of Education shall employ a
43 supervisor of counselors who holds certification as a school
44 counselor. The supervisor's responsibilities shall include the
45 oversight of the new school counseling programs as well as
46 existing programs.

47 (7) The State Department of Education may adopt rules and
48 regulations regarding the activities of the school counselor, and
49 the school counselor is authorized to perform such services that
50 are not inconsistent with the rules and regulations.

51 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2001.

