

By: Representative Scott

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1439

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADEQUATE
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM TO 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 THOSE ALLOTMENTS;
6 TO REQUIRE SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED WITH THOSE FUNDS TO BE
7 APPROPRIATELY LICENSED; TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
8 EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE
9 ACTIVITIES OF THOSE 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 2005-2006 school year,
12 the State Department of Education shall allot sufficient funding
13 under the adequate education program to those school districts
14 designated under subsection (2) of this section for the purpose of
15 employing a social worker.

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

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 under this section must be appropriately licensed as a
29 social worker under Section 73-53-1 et seq. The State Department
30 of Education shall specify which license a social worker must hold

31 as a qualification for being employed in a position funded under
32 this section.

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

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

43 (7) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district
44 from employing social workers with local funds.

45 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
46 and after July 1, 2005.