

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2375

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS UNDER THE ADEQUATE  
2 EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYING SCHOOL SOCIAL  
3 WORKERS BASED UPON SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN  
4 CONDITIONS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE-FUNDED SCHOOL SOCIAL  
5 WORKERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, in  
8 addition to other funds allotted under the adequate education  
9 program, each school district shall be allotted funding to employ  
10 one (1) school social worker for every two thousand (2,000)  
11 students enrolled in the school district, or fraction thereof;  
12 provided that each school district shall be eligible for at least  
13 one (1) state-funded social worker.

14 (2) The State Department of Education may, however, increase  
15 the number of positions funded each year beyond the above  
16 requirements as money is made available.

17 (3) The assignment of state-funded social workers to the  
18 particular schools within the district shall be at the discretion  
19 of the local school board with the following restrictions:

20 (a) No individual shall be employed as a school social  
21 worker without appropriate training and certification as  
22 determined by the State Department of Education; and

23 (b) School social workers shall be full-time  
24 professional personnel and shall spend a minimum of eighty-five  
25 percent (85%) of work time in direct social worker relationships  
26 with students.

27           (4) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any school  
28 district from employing with local funds more school social  
29 workers than are provided for in this section.

30           (5) The State Department of Education may adopt regulations  
31 regarding the activities of the school social workers as are not  
32 inconsistent with this section.

33           **SECTION 2.** All new programs authorized in this act are  
34 subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated  
35 therefor by the Legislature.

36           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
37 and after July 1, 2005.