

By: Representative Scott

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 868

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 2006-2007 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 must be selected according to  
19 greatest need, as indicated by records of the State Department of  
20 Education and the Division of Youth Services of the Department of  
21 Human Services which reflect those school districts having the  
22 highest incidences of crime, violence, food stamp participation  
23 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 Chapter 53, Title 73, Mississippi Code of  
30 1972. The State Department of Education shall specify which

31 license a social worker must hold as a qualification for being  
32 employed in a position funded under 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, 2006.