

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Williamson, Lee
(35th), Nunnelee

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2987

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION FOR
2 LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** It is the intent of the Legislature to realign
6 salaries of state employed social workers so that their salaries
7 are in alignment with the national salaries for social workers and
8 qualified social workers will be attracted to the State of
9 Mississippi. Based on a national study of licensed social workers
10 conducted by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW),
11 Center for Workforce Studies, the southern region has the lowest
12 salaries. The survey found that the median salary for licensed
13 bachelor level social workers, Thirty-three Thousand Six Hundred
14 Twenty-eight Dollars (\$33,628.00); licensed master social workers,
15 Forty-six Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-five Dollars (\$46,845.00);
16 and licensed Ph.D. social workers is Fifty-eight Thousand Three
17 Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$58,390.00).

18 **SECTION 2.** (1) Any person employed by the State of
19 Mississippi who possesses a social work license at the bachelor's
20 level, Licensed Social Worker, shall receive compensation in an
21 amount not less than Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00).

22 (2) Any person employed by the State of Mississippi who
23 possesses a social work license at the master's level, Licensed
24 Master Social Worker and Licensed Certified Social Worker, shall
25 receive compensation in an amount not less than Forty Thousand
26 Dollars (\$40,000.00).

27 (3) The State Personnel Board shall adjust the Colonel Guy
28 Groff State Variable Compensation Plan in a manner that will
29 effectuate the provisions of this section.

30 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2007.