
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: **SB 2621**
DATE 4/1/02
CC: FILE

SB 2621

SB 2621 amends current law to provide that community/junior college boards of trustees may designate a person to recommend teachers for employment. Current law provides that the president of a community/junior college recommend teachers for employment. If this bill passes, either the president or the person designated by the board may recommend personnel to the board. SB 2621 also amends current law to restrict boards from authorizing no more than 2 positions for such duties during each employment period (NOTE: This provision will be repealed on July 1, 2004).

I discussed this bill with you last week. The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges supports this bill. Dr. Larry Bailey of Mississippi Delta Community College lobbied for this bill in House Education committee. He said that SB 2621 will put community colleges on the same level playing field as K-12 because local school boards can appoint such a person to recommend teachers for employment. He also said that he and Dr. William Lewis at Pearl River Community College have faced the situation of being appointed president and their wives have had to resign after having taught for multiple years at the community college. The same situation would occur if the wife were appointed president. If Mrs. Bailey or Mrs. Lewis had not resigned, their husbands would have faced conflicts of interest like Dr. Muse did for recommending his wife for employment. Dr. Bailey stated that the provisions of SB 2621 would have prevented the Dr. Muse situation because the law would have authorized a third party to recommend the spouse for employment to the board.

SB 2621 is effective from and after passage.

I recommend that you sign SB 2621.