

**SENATE BILL NO. 1115**

May 6, 1998, Introduced by Senators BENNETT and SHUGARS and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to create the student advocate program at institutions of higher education; and to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state departments and officials.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1. As used in this act:

2       (a) "Advocate" means the student advocate created in  
3 section 2.

4       (b) "Department" means the department of education.

5       (c) "Institution of higher education" means a college, uni-  
6 versity, community college, or junior college described in  
7 section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the state constitution of  
8 1963 or established under section 7 of article VIII of the state  
9 constitution of 1963.

10       (d) "Student" means a person who is enrolled or accepted for  
11 enrollment at an institution of higher education.

1           Sec. 2. The position of higher education student advocate  
2 is created in the department of education. The advocate shall  
3 review complaints from students who feel that their teaching  
4 assistant does not speak English well enough that a reasonable  
5 person is able to understand.

6           Sec. 3. The advocate shall establish procedures for receiv-  
7 ing and processing a complaint from a student, conducting an  
8 investigation, and reporting findings resulting from his or her  
9 investigation to the department chair and the dean of the univer-  
10 sity or college.

11          Sec. 4. The advocate may do all of the following:

12          (a) Accept and review complaints from students regarding  
13 teaching assistants.

14          (b) Decide, in his or her discretion, whether to investigate  
15 a complaint.

16          (c) Submit a report of his or her findings and recommenda-  
17 tions to the department chair and dean of the university or  
18 college.