

By: Senator(s) Harvey

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2029

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT
2 GUIDELINES FOR MANDATORY STUDENT UNIFORMS AND TO REQUIRE THE
3 SCHOOL BOARDS OF ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PRESCRIBE A MANDATORY
4 STUDENT UNIFORM BEGINNING WITH THE 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR; TO AMEND
5 SECTION 37-7-335, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL
6 DISTRICTS TO CHARGE FEES NOT EXCEEDING THE ACTUAL COST FOR STUDENT
7 UNIFORMS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-11-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
8 REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INCLUDE AN EXPLANATION OF STUDENTS'
9 RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING UNIFORMS IN THE CODE OF STUDENT
10 CONDUCT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt
13 guidelines for mandatory uniforms for all students enrolled in the
14 public schools to be promulgated to all school districts on or
15 before July 1, 1999.

16 (2) Beginning with the 1999-2000 school year, the school
17 board of each school district shall prescribe a mandatory uniform
18 for all students enrolled in the district, and make available to
19 the students, for purchase, the various components of the uniform
20 when not available in the local community.

21 SECTION 2. Section 37-7-335, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
22 amended as follows:

23 37-7-335. (1) The school board of each school district may
24 charge reasonable fees, but not more than the actual cost, for the
25 following:

26 (a) Supplemental instructional materials and supplies,
27 excluding textbooks;

28 (b) Any other fees designated by the local school board
29 as fees related to a valid curriculum educational objective,
30 including school uniforms and transportation; and

31 (c) Extracurricular activities and any other
32 educational activities of the school district which are not
33 designated by the local school board as valid curriculum
34 educational objectives, such as band trips and athletic events.

35 (2) (a) All fees authorized to be charged under this
36 section, except those fees authorized under subsection (1)(c) of
37 this section, shall be charged only upon the condition that the
38 school board of each school district shall adopt a financial
39 hardship waiver policy that shall be kept in the strictest of
40 confidence with all files and personal disclosures restricted from
41 review by the general public. The board shall insure that a pupil
42 eligible to have any such fees waived as a result of an inability
43 to pay for said fees, shall not be discriminated against nor shall
44 there be any overt identification of any pupil who has received a
45 financial hardship waiver by use of special tokens or tickets,
46 announcements, posting or publication of names, physical
47 separation, choice of materials or by any other means. In no case
48 shall any school district's procedures expose any pupil receiving
49 a hardship waiver to any type of stigma or ridicule by other
50 pupils or school district personnel.

51 (b) The confidentiality of the financial hardship
52 waiver policy adopted by such school board shall apply to any
53 students who have an inability to pay any fees authorized under
54 subsection (1)(c) of this section.

55 (3) In no case shall the inability to pay the assessment of
56 fees authorized under * * * this section result in a pupil being
57 denied or deprived of any academic awards or standards, any class
58 selection, grade, diploma, transcript or the right to participate
59 in any activity related to educational enhancement.

60 SECTION 3. Section 37-11-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:

62 37-11-55. The local school board shall adopt and make
63 available to all teachers, school personnel, students and parents

64 or guardians, at the beginning of * * * each school year * * *, a
65 code of student conduct developed in consultation with teachers,
66 school personnel, students and parents or guardians. The code
67 shall be based on the rules governing student conduct and
68 discipline adopted by the school board and may be made available
69 at the school level in the student handbook or similar
70 publication. The code shall include, but not be limited to:

71 (a) Specific grounds for disciplinary action;

72 (b) Procedures to be followed for acts requiring
73 discipline; and

74 (c) An explanation of the responsibilities and rights
75 of students with regard to attendance, proper attire in conformity
76 with the school uniform, respect for persons and property,
77 knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn,
78 free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy and
79 participation in school programs and activities.

80 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
81 and after July 1, 1999.