

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2227

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL LABORATORY
2 CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT ACT"; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; TO AUTHORIZE
3 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A PUBLIC
4 SCHOOL LABORATORY CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN
5 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPLEMENT AN APPROVED PROGRAM; TO CREATE
6 AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
7 IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
8 EDUCATION TO REPORT TO CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES ON THE
9 STATUS OF THE WASTE LABORATORY CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; AND
10 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
13 "Mississippi Public School Laboratory Chemical Management Act."

14 SECTION 2. For purposes of this act, the following words and
15 phrases shall have the meaning ascribed herein unless the context
16 clearly indicates otherwise:

17 (a) "Approved program" means a public school laboratory
18 chemical management program approved by the Department of
19 Education.

20 (b) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

21 (c) "Commission" means the Commission on Environmental
22 Quality.

23 (d) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
24 Education.

25 (e) "Laboratory chemical" means any chemical used for
26 instructional purposes in classrooms and laboratories in grades
27 kindergarten through twelfth grade.

28 SECTION 3. (1) The department, subject to the availability
29 of funds appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise available,
30 shall develop and administer a public school laboratory chemical

31 management program. At a minimum the program shall include the
32 following:

33 (a) Training for science teachers in organization,
34 inventory and storage of laboratory chemicals, cataloging and use
35 of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), disposal of waste
36 laboratory chemicals and laboratory safety procedures;

37 (b) Training for school administrators on the hazards
38 associated with chemical handling and storage of laboratory
39 chemicals and laboratory safety procedures;

40 (c) Providing a standardized method of disposing of
41 waste laboratory chemicals, including funding as appropriated by
42 the Legislature or otherwise made available; and

43 (d) Providing and periodically reviewing and updating a
44 list of laboratory chemicals which should not be purchased by
45 school districts or used in school laboratories.

46 (2) The board may adopt, modify, repeal and promulgate,
47 after due notice and hearing in accordance with the Mississippi
48 Administrative Procedures Law and where not otherwise prohibited
49 by federal or state law, make exceptions to and grant exemptions
50 and variances from appropriate rules and regulations for carrying
51 out the school laboratory chemical management program, including
52 rules and regulations for the administration of funds as may be
53 appropriated or otherwise made available. The board shall adopt
54 rules and regulations establishing a system of priorities for
55 projects eligible for funding under this program.

56 (3) Each local public school district utilizing biological
57 or chemical laboratory facilities shall implement a public school
58 laboratory chemical management program in accordance with rules
59 and regulations or other guidelines or procedures adopted by the
60 board.

61 SECTION 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed as
62 affecting the commission's authority under state or federal law,
63 including, but not limited to, its authority to regulate the
64 transportation, storage and management of hazardous waste.

65 SECTION 5. The department shall establish an advisory
66 committee for the purpose of making recommendations to the
67 department on the administration of the public school laboratory

68 chemical management program. The advisory committee shall be
69 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education and shall be
70 comprised of representatives of appropriate state agencies and
71 additional persons which the department believes would be
72 beneficial to the program.

73 SECTION 6. Before November 15 of each year, the department
74 shall report to the appropriate education and environmental
75 committees of the Senate and House of Representatives on the
76 status and any results of the public school laboratory chemical
77 management program. Each report shall include as a minimum any
78 recommendations for improvement or expansion of the program.

79 SECTION 7. Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be
80 codified as a new article within Chapter 11 of Title 37,
81 Mississippi Code of 1972.

82 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after July 1, 1999.