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To: Education;  
Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2528

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-81 AND 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
3 ESTABLISH A SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND CRISIS  
4 ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
5 TO ADOPT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS, AND TO AUTHORIZE  
6 SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO FINANCE CERTAIN  
7 PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE SCHOOL SAFETY; TO ESTABLISH A SCHOOL CRISIS  
8 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TO  
9 PROVIDE FOR A TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS TO RESPOND TO  
10 TRAUMATIC OR VIOLENT SITUATIONS THAT IMPACT STUDENTS AND FACULTY  
11 IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF  
12 THE PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM; AND FOR  
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 SECTION 1. Section 37-3-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 37-3-81. The Department of Education shall establish and  
18 maintain a School Safety Center, which shall operate a statewide  
19 information clearinghouse that (a) provides assistance to school  
20 districts and communities during school crisis; and (b) provides  
21 technical assistance, training and current resources to public  
22 school officials and parents who need assistance in researching,  
23 developing and implementing school safety plans and in maintaining  
24 a safe school environment.

25 SECTION 2. Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
26 amended as follows:

27 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State  
28 Department of Education a School Safety Grant Program, available  
29 to all eligible public school districts, to assist in financing  
30 programs to provide school safety.

31 (2) The school board of each school district shall, with the

32 assistance of the Department of Education School Safety Center,  
33 adopt a comprehensive local school district school safety plan,  
34 and update the plan on an annual basis.

35 (3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the  
36 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following  
37 specific preventive services, and other additional services  
38 appropriate to the most current school district school safety  
39 plan:

40 (a) Metal detectors;

41 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communication equipment  
42 and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school buildings and  
43 school buses;

44 (c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school  
45 violence; \* \* \*

46 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution  
47 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State  
48 Department of Education for faculty and staff; and

49 (e) School safety personnel.

50 (4) Each local school district of this state may annually  
51 apply for \* \* \* school safety grant funds subject to  
52 appropriations by the Legislature. School safety grants shall  
53 include a base grant amount plus an additional amount per student  
54 in average daily attendance in the school or school district, to  
55 be determined by the State Board of Education subject to specific  
56 appropriation therefor by the Legislature. In order to be  
57 eligible for such program, each local school board desiring to  
58 participate shall apply to the State Department of Education by  
59 May 31 before the beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms  
60 provided by the department, and shall be required to establish a  
61 local School Safety Task Force to involve members of the community  
62 in the school safety effort. The State Department of Education  
63 shall determine by July 1 of each succeeding year which local  
64 school districts have submitted approved applications for school

65 safety grants.

66 (5) As part of the School Safety Grant Program, the State  
67 Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to research  
68 the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the classroom  
69 to address the following:

70 (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduce  
71 student disciplinary problems;

72 (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing  
73 evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the  
74 principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

75 (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and  
76 receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

77 \* \* \*

78 (6) Any local school district may use audio/visual  
79 monitoring equipment in classrooms for the purpose of monitoring  
80 school disciplinary problems.

81 (7) The State Department of Education shall annually report  
82 to the Chairmen of the Education Committees in the House of  
83 Representatives and Senate on the operation of the School Safety  
84 Center and the School Grant Program, with any recommendations for  
85 expansion or revision of the program.

86 SECTION 3. (1) There is established a School Crisis  
87 Management Program which shall be attached to the State Department  
88 of Education. Under this program, the State Department of  
89 Education shall create an office to provide a quick response team  
90 of personnel trained in school safety and crisis management, to  
91 respond to traumatic or violent situations that impact students  
92 and faculty in the public schools in Mississippi. The School  
93 Crisis Management Program shall meet the following conditions:

94 (a) The basic response team shall consist of those  
95 personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Education or  
96 his designee depending on the size of the school and the nature of  
97 the event.

98           (b) In order to access the services of a response team,  
99 the request shall be made by the local school principal or the  
100 superintendent of schools who shall make the request to the State  
101 Department of Education, or its contact designee.

102           (c) The requesting school or school district shall  
103 commit student time to the response team during the school day  
104 either individually or in groups.

105           (d) A response team shall enter a school to work with  
106 students and faculty for no more than a three-day period, unless  
107 otherwise requested by the school district.

108           (e) Response teams shall be organized on a regional  
109 basis in order to provide immediate access to these services.

110           (f) The State Department of Education, or its contact  
111 designee, shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area telephone  
112 service for the purpose of reporting suspected cases of school  
113 violence, and other traumatic situations impacting on students and  
114 faculty in the public schools.

115           (g) Subject to the availability of funds specifically  
116 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the expenses of the  
117 quick response teams and their administrative support shall be  
118 provided from state funds, and the State Department of Education  
119 may apply for and expend funds for the support and maintenance of  
120 this program from private and other funding sources.

121           (2) Local school districts, school superintendents and  
122 principals shall be fully authorized to request and utilize the  
123 services of quick response teams provided for under this section.

124 This section shall not be construed to require school officials  
125 to request the services of quick response teams provided for under  
126 this section.

127           SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
128 and after July 1, 2000.