

By: Harden

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2678

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-131, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE PHYSICAL  
3 EDUCATION CLASSES IN GRADES KINDERGARTEN THROUGH NINE BEGINNING  
4 WITH THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-13-131, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:[RDD1]

8 37-13-131. (1) The State Department of Education is  
9 designated as the state agency responsible for the administration  
10 and supervision of the Comprehensive School Health Education  
11 Program as an educational curriculum in the State of Mississippi.

12 It is the intent of the Legislature that all funds made available  
13 to the State Department of Education for the purpose of  
14 comprehensive school health education shall be administered by the  
15 State Department of Education.

16 (2) Pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) of this  
17 section, the State Department of Education is authorized to  
18 establish an Office of Comprehensive School Health Education  
19 within the framework of the State Department of Education for the  
20 purpose of developing standards, procedures and criteria for the  
21 administration and supervision of a statewide program of health  
22 education in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The State Department

23 of Education, through the Office of Comprehensive School Health  
24 Education, shall assume the further responsibility for promoting a  
25 statewide effort designed to prepare local school faculties and  
26 staffs to incorporate the comprehensive health education concept  
27 into their local educational programs.

28 (3) The Mississippi Department of Health, in conjunction  
29 with the Office of Student Development-Branch of Health-Related  
30 Services of the State Department of Education, shall develop a  
31 long-range strategic plan for a Comprehensive School Health  
32 Education Program in Grades K through 12. The Comprehensive  
33 School Health Education Program shall encompass four (4)  
34 interdependent components: (a) health education; (b) health  
35 service; (c) physical education and fitness; and (d) a healthful  
36 school environment. These curriculum components shall be designed  
37 to develop decision-making competencies related to health and  
38 health behavior. Such curriculum components are intended to  
39 motivate health maintenance and promote wellness, not only to  
40 prevent disease or disability. The Mississippi Department of  
41 Health, in conjunction with the Office of Student  
42 Development-Branch of Health-Related Services of the Department of  
43 Education, shall develop the strategic plan and make a report  
44 thereon to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January  
45 1, 1995.

46 (4) Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, the State  
47 Board of Education shall, for purposes of accreditation, require  
48 all school districts to offer and require attendance in physical  
49 education and fitness classes in Grades K through 9.

50 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after July 1, 2000.