HOUSE BILL NO. 770

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-93, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
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5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
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7 SECTION 1. Section 37-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:
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10 37-3-93. (1) Subject to the availability of funding
11 specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a
12 School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of
13 Education. This program is to be initiated and executed by the
14 department using only existing staff and resources. Under this
15 program, the State Department of Education shall create an office
16 making available a quick response team of personnel trained in
17 school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or
18 violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public
19 schools in Mississippi. The School Crisis Management Program
20 shall operate in accordance with the following:
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22 (a) The basic response team shall consist of those
23 personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Public
24 Education or their designees depending on the size of the school
25 and the nature of the event.
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27 (b) In order to access the services of a response team,
28 the request must be made by the local school principal or the
29 superintendent of schools, who shall make the request to the State
30 Department of Education or its contact designee.
(c) A response team shall enter a school to work with students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days, unless otherwise requested by the school district.

(d) The State Department of Education, or its designee, shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area telephone service for the purpose of receiving reports of suspected cases of school violence and other traumatic situations impacting on students and faculty in the public schools.

(e) The request made by a school district to access the services of a response team following a school safety incident may seek a review of the local school district’s safety plan, and the results of this evaluation may be published by the local school board in a newspaper with wide circulation in the district.

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

(2) Local school districts, school superintendents and principals may request and utilize the services of quick response teams provided for under this section; however, this section does not require school officials to request the services of quick response teams.

(3) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2004.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.