

By: Representative Ford

To: Education

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.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-3-93. (1) Subject to the availability of funding
8 specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a
9 School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of
10 Education. This program is to be initiated and executed by the
11 department using only existing staff and resources. Under this
12 program, the State Department of Education shall create an office
13 making available a quick response team of personnel trained in
14 school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or
15 violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public
16 schools in Mississippi. The School Crisis Management Program
17 shall operate in accordance with the following:

18 (a) The basic response team shall consist of those
19 personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Public
20 Education or their designees depending on the size of the school
21 and the nature of the event.

22 (b) In order to access the services of a response team,
23 the request must be made by the local school principal or the
24 superintendent of schools, who shall make the request to the State
25 Department of Education or its contact designee.



26 (c) A response team shall enter a school to work with
27 students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days,
28 unless otherwise requested by the school district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

