

By: Representative Brown

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 497

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-11-61, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DELETE THE REPEALER ON THE REQUIREMENT THAT LOCAL SCHOOL  
3 DISTRICTS PROVIDE PARENTS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL  
4 DISEASE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-11-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-11-61. (1) Local school boards shall ensure that all  
9 public schools and agricultural high schools provide parents and  
10 guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the  
11 effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease. Such  
12 information may be provided through the school district Web site,  
13 student handbook or other appropriate means of dissemination of  
14 information. Such information shall be updated annually if new  
15 information on such disease is available. This information shall  
16 include the causes, symptoms and means by which meningococcal  
17 disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may  
18 obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children.  
19 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a local  
20 school board or school to provide or purchase vaccine against  
21 meningococcal disease.

22 (2) The State Board of Health shall develop and make  
23 available educational materials appropriate for distribution so  
24 that the information required by this section can be provided to  
25 parents and guardians. The Department of Health may provide this  
26 information, at its discretion, electronically, on its Web site.  
27 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the

28 Department of Health to provide or purchase vaccine against  
29 meningococcal disease.

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31 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
32 and after its passage.