

By: Representative Warren

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 531

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-93, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE SCHOOL CRISIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
3 ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO JULY 1, 2009;
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51 (3) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2009.

52 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2007.