

By: Senator(s) Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2487

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 3-3-15 AND 37-13-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
2 OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE STATE FLAG AND UNITED STATES FLAG TO BE  
3 DISPLAYED FROM ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS OWNED OR LEASED BY A PUBLIC  
4 UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE A STATUTORY  
5 PENALTY AGAINST THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT OR SCHOOL DISTRICT  
6 SUPERINTENDENT FOR ANY UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OR SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
7 DOES NOT DISPLAY THE STATE FLAG AND UNITED STATES FLAG; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 3-3-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 3-3-15. The state flag \* \* \* and United States Flag shall be  
13 displayed from all public buildings from sunrise to sunset \* \* \*.  
14 For purposes of this section, "public buildings" means any  
15 building owned or leased by (a) a state agency, (b) a county, (c)  
16 a municipality, (d) a state-supported university or community  
17 college, (e) a public school district, and (f) any other political  
18 subdivision of the State of Mississippi. Any state-supported  
19 university, community college, or public school that does not  
20 display the state flag as required under this section shall be  
21 subject to a penalty as follows: the Governor shall direct the



22 State Fiscal Officer to withhold twenty-five percent (25%) of that  
23 university or college president's monthly salary from the State  
24 General Fund or twenty-five percent (25%) of the school  
25 superintendant's monthly salary from MAEP funds for that public  
26 school district, as the case may be, until such time as the  
27 university, college or public school district complies with the  
28 requirements of this section. However, the state flag may be  
29 displayed from all public buildings twenty-four (24) hours a day  
30 if properly illuminated. The state flag should not be displayed  
31 when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is  
32 displayed. The state flag shall receive all of the respect and  
33 ceremonious etiquette given the American flag. Provided, however,  
34 nothing in this section shall be construed so as to affect the  
35 precedence given to the flag of the United States of America.

36 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
37 amended as follows:

38 37-13-5. (1) The flag of the State of Mississippi and the  
39 flag of the United States shall be displayed in close proximity to  
40 the school building at all times during the hours of daylight when  
41 the school is in session when the weather will permit without  
42 damage to the flag. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees  
43 of the school district to provide for the flags and their display  
44 in compliance with the provisions of Section 3-3-15, Mississippi  
45 Code of 1972.



46 (2) Whenever the flag of the United States is to be flown at  
47 half-staff by order or instructions of the President or pursuant  
48 to federal law, all public schools shall lower the United States  
49 flag in accordance with the executive order or instructions or  
50 federal law. The school shall announce the reason that the flag  
51 is being flown at half-staff to all students in assembly or by  
52 teachers in the various classrooms or by prominently displaying  
53 written notice throughout the school stating the reason that the  
54 flag has been lowered.

55 (3) In all public schools there shall be given a course of  
56 study concerning the flag of the United States and the flag of the  
57 State of Mississippi. The course of study shall include the  
58 history of each flag and what they represent and the proper  
59 respect therefor. There also shall be taught in the public  
60 schools the duties and obligations of citizenship, patriotism,  
61 Americanism and respect for and obedience to law.

62 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
63 and after July 1, 2016.

