

By: Representatives Currie, Sykes

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 348

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO DRINK BOTTLED WATER ON SCHOOL BUS  
 2 WHILE TRAVELING FROM HOME TO SCHOOL AND FROM SCHOOL TO HOME; TO  
 3 PROVIDE THAT THE WATER MUST BE IN ITS ORIGINAL LABELED AND CLEAR,  
 4 PLASTIC BOTTLE WITH AN UNBROKEN SEAL; TO PROHIBIT EATING OR  
 5 DRINKING ANY OTHER ITEMS OR BEVERAGES ON SCHOOL BUSES; TO PROVIDE  
 6 AN EXCEPTION WHEN TRAVELING OUT-OF-TOWN FOR EXTRACURRICULAR  
 7 ACTIVITIES OR FIELD TRIPS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) Any student who is transported on a  
 10 school bus from his or her place of residence to the school of  
 11 enrollment and attendance, or from the school of enrollment and  
 12 attendance to his or her home shall be allowed to drink bottled  
 13 water on the school bus of transport. The water must be in its  
 14 original labeled and clear, plastic bottle with an unbroken seal  
 15 at the time of boarding the school bus. Notwithstanding, the  
 16 exception for the allowance of water, as prescribed in this  
 17 subsection, students are prohibited from eating or drinking any  
 18 other items or beverages while in transport to and from school on  
 19 the school bus.



20 (b) As a matter of safety precaution, the student must  
21 keep water bottles in his or her lap for the duration of the  
22 transportation period, or in his or her book bag when not  
23 drinking. Students should be mindful not to leave any water  
24 bottles brought onto the school bus on the seat or floor when the  
25 student exits the bus.

26 (2) When attending out-of-town extracurricular activities or  
27 field trips that require travel by school bus, students, at the  
28 discretion of the supervising school employee, teacher, coach or  
29 administrator with approval of the school board, may be permitted  
30 to eat or drink on the school bus, provided that such items are  
31 not in violation of any policy of the school district. Students  
32 should be mindful not to leave any debris from food or drink  
33 container brought onto the school bus on the seat or floor when  
34 the student exits the bus upon the conclusion of said travel.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
36 and after July 1, 2017.

