

By: Representative Clarke

To: Education; Public Health  
and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 529

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-171, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENT AND STANDARDS OF CURRICULUM TO BE USED  
3 IN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR THE TEACHING OF SEX EDUCATION; TO  
4 REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT SUCH PROGRAM BE ABSTINENCE-ONLY OR  
5 ABSTINENCE-PLUS COURSE OF INSTRUCTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
6 REQUIRED POLICY TO BE ADOPTED TO IMPLEMENT SEX EDUCATION SHALL BE  
7 COMPREHENSIVE IN NATURE AND PROVIDE MEDICALLY ACCURATE, COMPLETE,  
8 AGE AND DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE INFORMATION; TO REQUIRE POLICY  
9 TO BE AVAILABLE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR; TO  
10 PRESCRIBE WHAT ELEMENTS SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE SEX EDUCATION  
11 CURRICULUM ADOPTED AND IMPLEMENTED BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR  
12 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-171, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 37-13-171. (1) The local school board of every public  
17 school district shall adopt a policy to implement \* \* \*  
18 comprehensive sex education programs that:

19 (a) Provide the information and skills all young people  
20 need to make informed, responsible and healthy decisions in order  
21 to become sexually healthy adults and have healthy relationships;

22 (b) Provide information about the prevention of  
23 unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (including



24 HIV), dating violence, sexual assault, bullying and harassment;  
25 and

26 (c) Promote and uphold the rights of young people to  
27 information in order to make healthy and responsible decisions  
28 about their sexual health.

29 (2) \* \* \* By the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year,  
30 each public school district must adopt a sex education curriculum  
31 that:

32 (a) Covers a broad range of topics, including medically  
33 accurate, complete, age and developmentally appropriate  
34 information about all the aspects of sex needed for a complete sex  
35 education program, including:

36 (i) Anatomy and physiology;

37 (ii) Growth and development;

38 (iii) Healthy relationships;

39 (iv) The prevention of unintended pregnancy and  
40 sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, through  
41 abstinence and contraception; and

42 (v) Protection from dating violence, sexual  
43 assault, bullying and harassment;

44 (b) Promotes educational achievement, critical  
45 thinking, decision-making, self-esteem and self-efficacy;

46 (c) Helps develop healthy attitudes and insights  
47 necessary for understanding relationships between oneself and  
48 others and society;



49                    (d) Fosters leadership skills and community engagement

50 by:

51                    (i) Promoting principles of fairness, human  
52 dignity and respect; and

53                    (ii) Engaging young people as partners in their  
54 communities; and

55                    (e) Are culturally and linguistically appropriate,  
56 reflecting the diverse circumstances and realities of young  
57 people.

58        \* \* \*

59        ( \* \* \*3) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2021.

60        **SECTION 2.** Sex education programs with any of the following  
61 information shall not be adopted or implemented in Mississippi  
62 schools:

63                    (a) Deliberately withhold health promoting or  
64 life-saving information about sexuality-related topics, including  
65 HIV;

66                    (b) Are medically inaccurate or have been  
67 scientifically shown to be ineffective;

68                    (c) Are insensitive and unresponsive to the needs of  
69 survivors of sexual abuse or assault; or

70                    (d) Are inconsistent with the ethical imperatives of  
71 medicine and public health.

72        **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 and after July 1, 2018.

