

By: Representative Crawford

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 840

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INSTALL VIDEO
 2 SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS EQUIPPED WITH AUDIO RECEPTION TECHNOLOGY IN
 3 CERTAIN AREAS OF SCHOOLS FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF
 4 EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS; TO LIMIT VIEWING ACCESS OF RECORDED
 5 SURVEILLANCE TO CERTAIN DISTRICT AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL-FACILITY
 6 LICENSED PERSONNEL; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROTECT THE
 7 PRIVACY AND IDENTITY OF STUDENTS CAPTURED IN THE SURVEILLANCE WHO
 8 ARE NOT THE SUBJECT OF INCIDENTS GIVING RISE TO INVESTIGATION OR
 9 LITIGATION; TO AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO CONTRACT WITH ANY
 10 COMPANY OR INDIVIDUAL, INDEPENDENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, TO
 11 PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE MONITORING SERVICE; TO REQUIRE THE SCHOOL
 12 DISTRICT, ACTING THROUGH THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD TO EMPLOY CERTAIN
 13 PROCEDURES PRIOR TO AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR MONITORING SERVICES;
 14 TO EXCLUDE THE NEED FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO EMPLOY SECURITY
 15 PERSONNEL OR REQUIRE THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
 16 OFFICERS ON SCHOOL PREMISES EQUIPPED WITH SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS; TO
 17 BRING FORWARD SECTION 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR
 18 PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

20 **SECTION 1.** (1) Each school district shall install video
 21 surveillance cameras, equipped with audio reception technology,
 22 into each self-contained classroom of school facilities that
 23 provides daily instruction to an exceptional child, as defined in
 24 Section 37-23-3, as well as in the gymnasium, interior corridors,
 25 cafeteria, designated recreational activity areas and on the
 26 exterior parameters of the school facility. Each point of access,



27 that allows for the entry and exit of individuals shall also be
28 under video surveillance.

29 (2) The surveillance footage and audio shall only be
30 viewable by the district superintendent, and by the principal and
31 licensed personnel in the school building where the equipment is
32 installed. In the event of an incident involving an exceptional
33 child that warrants the disclosure of the video surveillance for
34 investigation or litigation purposes, the district shall undertake
35 every measure to protect the privacy and identity of any student
36 not involved in the incident giving rise to the investigation or
37 litigation for which the surveillance is being sought.

38 (3) The school district is authorized to contract with any
39 company or individual, independent of the school district, to
40 provide the necessary surveillance monitoring service. However,
41 the school district, acting through the school board, shall not
42 select any one (1) company or individual without first advertising
43 a request for proposals in a newspaper published in the county in
44 which the school district is located, or, if no newspaper is
45 published in that county, then in a newspaper having a general
46 circulation therein, for two (2) successive weeks, the first being
47 at least ten (10) days before the public contract. The contract
48 shall then be awarded to the best bid received and accepted by the
49 board.

50 (4) With the installation of surveillance cameras on school
51 premises as required under subsection (1) of this section, it



52 shall not be necessary for the school district to employ security
53 personnel or require the immediate presence of law enforcement
54 officers on a daily basis.

55 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
56 brought forward as follows:

57 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State
58 Department of Education, using only existing staff and resources,
59 a School Safety Grant Program, available to all eligible public
60 school districts, to assist in financing programs to provide
61 school safety. However, no monies from the Temporary Assistance
62 for Needy Families grant may be used for the School Safety Grant
63 Program.

64 (2) The school board of each school district, with the
65 assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety
66 Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school
67 safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis.

68 (3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the
69 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following
70 specific preventive services, and other additional services
71 appropriate to the most current school district school safety
72 plan:

73 (a) Metal detectors;

74 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communications
75 equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school
76 buildings, school grounds and school buses;



77 (c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school
78 violence;

79 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution
80 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State
81 Department of Education for faculty and staff; and

82 (e) School safety personnel.

83 (4) Each local school district of this state may annually
84 apply for school safety grant funds subject to appropriations by
85 the Legislature. School safety grants shall include a base grant
86 amount plus an additional amount per student in average daily
87 attendance in the school or school district. The base grant
88 amount and amount per student shall be determined by the State
89 Board of Education, subject to specific appropriation therefor by
90 the Legislature. In order to be eligible for such program, each
91 local school board desiring to participate shall apply to the
92 State Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of
93 the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the department,
94 and shall be required to establish a local School Safety Task
95 Force to involve members of the community in the school safety
96 effort. The State Department of Education shall determine by July
97 1 of each succeeding year which local school districts have
98 submitted approved applications for school safety grants.

99 (5) As part of the School Safety Grant Program, the State
100 Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to research



101 the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the classroom
102 to address the following:

103 (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduce
104 student disciplinary problems;

105 (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing
106 evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the
107 principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

108 (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and
109 receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

110 (6) Any local school district may use
111 audio/visual-monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways,
112 buildings, grounds and buses for the purpose of monitoring school
113 disciplinary problems.

114 (7) As a component of the comprehensive local school
115 district school safety plan required under subsection (2) of this
116 section, the school board of a school district may adopt and
117 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, to be
118 known as "Erin's Law Awareness." Any policy adopted under this
119 subsection may include or address, but need not be limited to, the
120 following:

121 (a) Methods for increasing teacher, student and
122 parental awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children,
123 including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a
124 child may be a victim of sexual abuse;



125 (b) Educational information for parents or guardians,
126 which may be included in the school handbook, on the warning signs
127 of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance,
128 referral or resource information;

129 (c) Training for school personnel on child sexual
130 abuse;

131 (d) Age-appropriate curriculum for students in
132 prekindergarten through fifth grade;

133 (e) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual
134 abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention;

135 (f) Counseling and resources available for students
136 affected by sexual abuse; and

137 (g) Emotional and educational support for a child who
138 has been abused to enable the child to be successful in school.

139 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
140 and after July 1, 2019.

