

By: Representatives McCarty, Ford (73rd),
Owen, Yates, McLean, Summers

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 925

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES
2 AND REGULATIONS REQUIRING NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR
3 CERTAIN EXISTING SCHOOLS UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS TO HAVE A MINIMUM
4 NUMBER OF WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS; TO PRESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS
5 FOR SCHOOL WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS AND DRINKING WATER
6 FOUNTAINS; TO ALLOW STUDENTS AND STAFF TO CARRY REFILLABLE WATER
7 BOTTLES WHILE IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SCHOOL PREMISES; TO SPECIFY
8 THAT THE NEW REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO NEW SCHOOL
9 CONSTRUCTION AND CERTAIN RENOVATION PROJECTS COMMENCED AFTER
10 JANUARY 1, 2022; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt
13 rules and regulations that require those schools described under
14 subsection (6) to have water bottle filling stations consistent
15 with the requirements of this section.

16 (2) The State Board of Education shall allow students and
17 staff to carry refillable water bottles in school facilities and
18 on school premises in order to encourage water consumption and to
19 mitigate the spread of germs and diseases.

20 (3) The State Department of Education shall not approve the
21 plans and specifications for a new public school building
22 contemplated by a local school board or for any addition to or



23 renovation of an existing school building, as set forth in
24 subsection (6), unless the plans and specifications provide for
25 the following:

26 (a) A minimum of one (1) water bottle filling station
27 on each floor and wing of each school building;

28 (b) A minimum of one (1) water bottle refilling station
29 located in or near gymnasiums, cafeterias and other high-traffic
30 areas; and

31 (c) A minimum of one (1) drinking water fountain or
32 water bottle filling station for every one hundred (100) students
33 projected to attend the school upon completion of the proposed
34 construction.

35 (4) A water bottle filling station installed in a public
36 school building must:

37 (a) Dispense filtered, clean drinking water; and

38 (b) Be regularly cleaned and maintained.

39 Bottle filling stations may be integrated into drinking
40 fountains.

41 (5) A drinking water fountain installed in a public school
42 building must:

43 (a) Be equipped with a protective cowl;

44 (b) Be equipped with a waterspout at least one (1) inch
45 above the overflow rim of the drinking water fountain;

46 (c) Dispense filtered, clean drinking water; and

47 (d) Be regularly cleaned and maintained.



48 (6) This section applies to:

49 (a) New school buildings, the construction of which
50 commences on or after January 1, 2022;

51 (b) Existing school facilities that undergo capital
52 improvements projects to renovate, repair, remodel or enlarge a
53 school building commencing on or after January 1, 2022, if either:

54 (i) The total capital improvements project
55 cost is One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or more; or

56 (ii) The total capital improvements project cost
57 is less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) but the
58 project plans include the installation of additional drinking
59 water fountains or the replacement of existing drinking water
60 fountains; and

61 (c) Schools in which one or more existing drinking
62 water fountains are replaced or new drinking water fountains are
63 installed on or after January 1, 2022.

64 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
65 and after July 1, 2021.

