

By: Representative Tullos

To: Rules

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 3-3-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE APRIL 13-19 OF EACH YEAR AS "MISSISSIPPI  
3 MOSQUITO AND WEST NILE VIRUS AWARENESS WEEK"; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, warming temperatures combined with late spring rains  
6 create ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed, including the  
7 mosquitoes that transmit West Nile Virus; and

8 WHEREAS, mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus, which is  
9 caught by them from infected birds, can transfer it to humans and  
10 other animals, and humans infected with the virus, particularly  
11 children, people with weakened immune systems, and the elderly,  
12 may become seriously ill; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2018, Mississippi had 50 human cases of West Nile  
14 Virus, with no deaths, and in 2017, the state had 63 cases with  
15 two deaths; and

16 WHEREAS, most cases reportedly occur between July and  
17 September, and infected persons may experience symptoms including  
18 fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, rash, muscle weakness or  
19 swollen lymph nodes; and



20 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that all public schools  
21 teach prevention of West Nile Virus in the health, science and  
22 biology classes and include insect repellent as part of the school  
23 supplies that are in each classroom at the start of the school  
24 year, particularly for the elementary grades; and

25 WHEREAS, managing mosquitoes has been a function of the State  
26 Department of Health, and West Nile Virus awareness is a related  
27 public health issue: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

29 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
30 3-3-63, Mississippi Code of 1972:

31 3-3-63. The week of April 13-19 of each year is designated  
32 as "Mississippi Mosquito and West Nile Virus Awareness Week" to  
33 promote awareness of the importance of effectively managing  
34 mosquitoes and the prevention of West Nile Virus.

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

