

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education;
Accountability, Efficiency,
Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2148

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-7-316, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES AND
3 REGULATIONS REQUIRING NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR CERTAIN
4 EXISTING SCHOOLS UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS TO HAVE A MINIMUM NUMBER
5 OF WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS; TO PRESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS FOR
6 SCHOOL WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS AND DRINKING WATER FOUNTAINS;
7 TO SPECIFY THAT THE NEW REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO NEW SCHOOL
8 CONSTRUCTION AND CERTAIN RENOVATION PROJECTS COMMENCED AFTER
9 JANUARY 1, 2022; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
12 37-7-316, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 37-7-316. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt
14 rules and regulations that require those schools described under
15 subsection (6) of this section to have water bottle filling
16 stations consistent with the requirements of this section. Bottle
17 filling stations may be integrated into existing drinking
18 fountains.

19 (2) The State Board of Education shall allow students and
20 staff to carry refillable water bottles at school facilities in



21 order to encourage water consumption and mitigate the spread of
22 germs and diseases.

23 (3) The State Board of Education shall not approve the plans
24 and specifications for a new public school building contemplated
25 by a local school board or for any addition to or renovation of an
26 existing school building as set forth in subsection (6) of this
27 section unless the plans and specifications provide for the
28 following:

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

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

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

38 (4) A water bottle filling station installed in a public
39 school building shall:

40 (a) Dispense filtered, chilled, clean drinking water;
41 and

42 (b) Be regularly cleaned and maintained.

43 (5) A drinking water fountain installed in a public school
44 building must:

45 (a) Be equipped with a protective cowl;



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

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

49 (d) Be regularly cleaned and maintained.

50 (6) This section applies to:

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

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

56 (i) The total cost of the capital improvements
57 project is One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) or more; or

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

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

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

