

By: Senator(s) Simmons (13th), Chassaniol,
Barnett, Thomas, Blount, Simmons (12th),
Jackson (32nd), Norwood

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2531

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "T INITIATIVE OF 2021"; TO PROVIDE THAT
2 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM
3 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO STUDENTS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING;
4 TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE SCHOOLS WITH ACCESS
5 TO HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND INTERNET IN RURAL CRITICAL INTERNET
6 SHORTAGE AREAS; TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO TRACK AND MONITOR
7 STUDENT'S PROGRESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC; TO PROVIDE THAT
8 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ASSIST SCHOOLS IN PROVIDING
9 TUTORING FOR STUDENTS IN VIRTUAL LEARNING; AND FOR RELATED
10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
13 "T Initiative of 2021."

14 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Education shall develop and
15 implement a program to provide additional resources for students
16 to complete coursework and participate in class through virtual
17 learning.

18 **SECTION 3.** As part of this program, the department shall
19 provide schools with access to high-speed broadband internet in
20 rural areas that are designated as critical internet shortage
21 areas by the department.



22 **SECTION 4.** The department shall develop and implement a
23 tracking system to compile and report enrollment and academic
24 success for students who may have dropped out of school because of
25 the COVID-19 pandemic.

26 **SECTION 5.** The department shall provide assistance to
27 schools to ensure students have any tutoring necessary as a result
28 of the challenges presented due to distance learning or virtual
29 learning.

30 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2021.

