

By: Representative Bain

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 418

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER OPERATED BY
 2 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FOR
 3 RECEIVING REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT TO BE POSTED IN ALL
 4 PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF
 5 EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONTENT,
 6 SIZE AND LOCATION OF SUCH SIGNS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of each school district and
 9 the governing board of each charter school in the state shall post
 10 in each school, in at least one (1) high traffic, clearly visible
 11 public location that is readily accessible to students, a sign in
 12 both English and Spanish which contains the toll-free telephone
 13 number operated by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection
 14 Services to receive reports of child abuse and neglect.

15 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
 16 regulations relating to the content, size and location of the sign
 17 required to be posted under subsection (1). At a minimum, the
 18 rules and regulations must require each sign:



19 (a) To be in a format and language that is clear,
20 simple and understandable to students at the grade levels in the
21 school in which the sign is posted;

22 (b) To have the toll-free telephone number printed in
23 bold print;

24 (c) To include instructions to call 911 for
25 emergencies;

26 (d) To include the website address for the Mississippi
27 Department of Child Protection Services and directions on
28 accessing the website for the purpose of submitting a report of
29 child abuse or neglect or obtaining additional information on
30 reporting abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

31 (e) To be in large print on a poster that is no less
32 than eleven (11) by seventeen (17) inches in size, which poster
33 must be placed at eye level to students to facilitate easy
34 viewing.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2022.

