

By: Representative Foster

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL
 2 YEAR, WALK-THROUGH METAL DETECTORS MUST BE INSTALLED AND OPERATED
 3 AT ALL PUBLIC ENTRANCES OF EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE
 4 SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL AND CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE STATE; TO PROVIDE
 5 THAT THE RELATED TRAINING IN THE USE OF THESE METAL DETECTORS
 6 SHALL BE PERFORMED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN
 7 CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE
 8 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; TO PROVIDE FOR THE
 9 PROMULGATION OF RELATED REGULATIONS; TO MAKE THESE PROVISIONS
 10 CONTINGENT UPON APPROPRIATIONS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND FOR
 11 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) (a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school
 14 year, walk-through metal detectors must be installed and operated
 15 at all public entrances of each public elementary school, middle
 16 school, high school and charter school in the state.

17 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "public
 18 entrance" means the main entrance to each public school building,
 19 gymnasium and football stadium, but does not include service
 20 entrances, secondary doors and school bus loading-zone entrances.

21 (2) In consultation and cooperation with the Office of the
 22 Attorney General and the Mississippi Department of Public Safety,



23 the State Department of Education shall provide training in the
24 use of walk-through metal detectors to school officials who shall
25 use the equipment and protocol for responding when contraband is
26 detected.

27 (3) The State Board of Education shall promulgate
28 regulations to implement this section.

29 (4) The provisions of this section shall be contingent upon
30 the appropriation of necessary funding by the Legislature for the
31 equipment and personnel training which, if appropriated, shall be
32 included in annual appropriation for the State Department of
33 Education.

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
35 and after July 1, 2023.

