

By: Representatives Crawford, Hopkins,
Williamson

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 294

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR
2 COLLEGES AND STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FROM REQUIRING
3 STUDENTS TO WEAR FACE MASKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The school board of a local school district, a
6 school district superintendent, an elected or appointed local
7 official, or an employee of a school district may not require a
8 student to wear a face mask, face shield or any other facial
9 covering that fits over the mouth or nose. However, a parent, in
10 the parent's sole discretion, may allow the parent's child to wear
11 a face mask, face shield or other facial covering that fits over
12 the mouth or nose. The prohibition in this section does not apply
13 to safety equipment required as part of a course of study
14 consistent with occupational or laboratory safety requirements.

15 **SECTION 2.** The president of a state institution of higher
16 learning or public community or junior college, an elected or
17 appointed local official, or a policy making body or individual
18 employee of a state institution of higher learning or community or



19 junior college may not require a student to wear a face mask, face
20 shield or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or
21 nose. However, a student, in the student's sole discretion, may
22 elect to wear a face mask, face shield or other facial covering
23 that fits over the mouth or nose. The prohibition in this section
24 does not apply to safety equipment required as part of a course of
25 study consistent with occupational or laboratory safety
26 requirements.

27 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2023.

