

By: Representative Tullos

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 559

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 3-3-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL EACH YEAR AS "THE
3 PHILLIP CAMERON HENDRY MISSISSIPPI MOSQUITO AND WEST NILE VIRUS
4 AWARENESS WEEK"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, warming temperatures combined with late spring rains
6 create ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed, including the
7 mosquitoes that transmit West Nile Virus; and

8 WHEREAS, mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus, which is
9 caught by them from infected birds, can transfer it to humans and
10 other animals, and humans infected with the virus, particularly
11 children, people with weakened immune systems, and the elderly,
12 may become seriously ill; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi had no deaths but eight reported human
14 cases of West Nile Virus in 2021, seven reported cases in 2020, 15
15 reported cases in 2019 and 50 reported cases in 2018 and in 2017,
16 the state had 63 cases with two deaths; and

17 WHEREAS, most cases reportedly occur between July and
18 September, and infected persons may experience symptoms including



19 fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, rash, muscle weakness or
20 swollen lymph nodes; and

21 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that all public schools
22 teach prevention of West Nile Virus in the health, science and
23 biology classes and include insect repellent as part of the school
24 supplies that are in each classroom at the start of the school
25 year, particularly for the elementary grades; and

26 WHEREAS, managing mosquitoes has been a function of the State
27 Department of Health, and West Nile Virus awareness is a related
28 public health issue: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

30 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
31 3-3-67, Mississippi Code of 1972:

32 3-3-67. The second week of April each year is designated as
33 "The Phillip Cameron Hendry Mississippi Mosquito and West Nile
34 Virus Awareness Week" to promote awareness of the importance of
35 effectively managing mosquitoes and the prevention of West Nile
36 Virus.

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

