

By: Senator(s) Hickman, Simmons (12th),
Jackson

To: Drug Policy;
Accountability, Efficiency,
Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2281
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE 2023 MISSISSIPPI FENTANYL AND DRUG ABUSE
2 EDUCATION ACT; TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI FENTANYL AND DRUG
3 ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; TO
4 REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO DEVELOP AND
5 IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE FENTANYL AND DRUG ABUSE
6 EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND CESSATION PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE
7 PROGRAM TO BE BASED ON SCIENTIFIC DATA AND RESEARCH THAT HAVE BEEN
8 DEMONSTRATED TO BE EFFECTIVE AT ACCOMPLISHING THE PURPOSES OF THIS
9 SECTION; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN MINIMUM COMPONENTS IN THE PROGRAM; AND
10 FOR RELATED 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 "2023 Mississippi Fentanyl and Drug Abuse Education Act."

14 **SECTION 2.** (1) (a) There is established within the State
15 Department of Mental Health the Mississippi Fentanyl and Drug
16 Abuse Education Program.

17 (b) The State Department of Mental Health shall develop
18 and implement a comprehensive statewide fentanyl and drug abuse
19 education, prevention and cessation program that is based on
20 scientific data and research that has been demonstrated to be
21 effective at accomplishing the purposes of this section.



22 (2) At a minimum, the program shall include the following
23 components:

24 (a) A mass media campaign, including paid advertising
25 and other communication tools, to discourage the use of fentanyl
26 and abuse of other drugs and to educate people, especially youth,
27 about the health hazards from the use of fentanyl and abuse of
28 other drugs, which shall be designed to be effective at achieving
29 these goals and shall include, but need not be limited to,
30 television, radio, social media and print advertising, as well as
31 sponsorship, exhibits and other opportunities to raise awareness
32 statewide;

33 (b) Materials, curricula and programs that may be used
34 or implemented in schools and other locations to educate youth
35 about fentanyl and other harmful drugs and to discourage the use
36 of fentanyl and abuse of other drugs, including, but not limited
37 to, materials, curricula and programs that involve youth, educate
38 youth about the health hazards from the use of fentanyl and abuse
39 of other drugs, help youth develop skills to refuse fentanyl and
40 other harmful drugs, and demonstrate to youth how to stop using
41 fentanyl and abusing other drugs;

42 (c) Local community programs, including, but not
43 limited to, youth-based partnerships that discourage the use of
44 fentanyl and abuse of other drugs and involve community-based
45 organizations in fentanyl and drug abuse education, prevention and
46 cessation programs in their communities;



47 (d) Programs to assist and help people to stop using
48 fentanyl and/or abusing other drugs; and

49 (e) A surveillance and evaluation system that monitors
50 program accountability and results, produces publicly available
51 reports that review how monies expended for the program are spent,
52 and includes an evaluation of the program's effectiveness in
53 reducing and preventing the use of fentanyl and abuse of other
54 drugs, and provides annual recommendations for improvements to
55 enhance the program's effectiveness.

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

