

By: Representative Eubanks

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 683

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS TO RECEIVE CERTAIN  
 2 OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS;  
 3 TO REQUIRE THOSE STUDENTS TO BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ELIGIBILITY  
 4 REQUIREMENTS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN  
 5 THERAPY SERVICES BY STUDENTS IN THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO  
 6 PROHIBIT A SCHOOL BOARD FROM IMPOSING ANY REQUIREMENT UPON A  
 7 HOMESCHOOLED STUDENT SEEKING THERAPY SERVICES WHICH IS NOT IMPOSED  
 8 UPON FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT; TO AUTHORIZE  
 9 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
 10 RELATING TO POLICIES IMPLEMENTED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS GOVERNING  
 11 THE DELIVERY OF OUTPATIENT THERAPY SERVICES TO HOMESCHOOLED  
 12 STUDENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) A student who is being educated in a  
 15 legitimate home instruction program, as defined under the  
 16 Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law (Section 37-13-91),  
 17 may participate in outpatient therapy services that are made  
 18 available to students in the school district where the  
 19 homeschooled student resides. Upon the request of the parent,  
 20 guardian or legal custodian of a homeschooled student for whom  
 21 medically necessary outpatient therapy services have been ordered  
 22 by a licensed medical professional, the school board shall require  
 23 the local school that includes the grade level of the homeschooled



24 student to make appropriate arrangements for the delivery of the  
25 therapy services to the student at that school. The homeschooled  
26 student must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school  
27 at which the student is seeking therapy services; however, if the  
28 local school that includes the grade level of the homeschooled  
29 student does not provide the medically necessary therapy services,  
30 the school board must allow the student to receive the therapy  
31 services at any school within the district which offers the  
32 therapy services sought by the homeschooled student. As used in  
33 this section, the term "therapy services" includes speech-language  
34 pathology and audiology services, physical therapy and  
35 occupational therapy.

36 (2) A homeschooled student receiving therapy services in a  
37 public school and the student's parents must adhere to the same  
38 rules and regulations adopted by the local school board governing  
39 participation in that therapy by students enrolled in the school.  
40 Each local school board shall adopt a policy governing  
41 homeschooled student participation in outpatient therapy services,  
42 which policy must conform to any rules and regulations adopted by  
43 the State Board of Education under subsection (3) of this section.  
44 A school board may not impose any requirements on a homeschooled  
45 student relating to the student receiving therapy services which  
46 are not imposed on full-time students of the local school  
47 district.



48           (3) The State Board of Education may promulgate any rules  
49 and regulations the board deems necessary to promote consistency  
50 of policies implemented by local school boards throughout the  
51 state permitting homeschooled students to receive outpatient  
52 therapy services as provided under subsections (1) and (2) of this  
53 section.

54           (4) This section may not be construed to require any  
55 homeschooled student to enroll in a school district for the  
56 purpose of receiving outpatient therapy services.

57           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
58 and after July 1, 2024.

