

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Norwood, Brumfield

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2684

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO AID SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN
 3 CREATING TECHNOLOGY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLANS; TO REQUIRE THE
 4 DEPARTMENT TO PERIODICALLY CONDUCT SURVEYS ON TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS;
 5 TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-137, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE
 6 THE DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE TO HELP DISTRICT NUTRITION
 7 PROGRAMS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-41-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 8 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP GUIDANCE FOR
 9 DISTRICTS TO USE IN ASSESSING AND OPTIMIZING BUS ROUTES WITH THE
 10 GOAL OF IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND REDUCING COSTS; AND
 11 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 14 amended as follows:

15 37-3-5. (1) The State Department of Education is hereby
 16 charged with the execution of all laws relating to the
 17 administrative, supervisory and consultative services to the
 18 public schools and agricultural high schools of the school
 19 districts throughout the State of Mississippi. The State
 20 Department of Education is also authorized to grant property to
 21 public school districts and agricultural high schools of the State
 22 of Mississippi.



23 Subject to the direction of the State Board of Education as
24 provided by law, the administration, management and control of the
25 department is hereby vested in the State Superintendent of Public
26 Education, who shall be directly responsible for the rightful
27 functioning thereof.

28 (2) The Department of Education shall aid school districts
29 in creating technology and disaster recovery plans. The
30 department shall develop a plan template and provide guidance
31 documents for technology staff to use when developing these plans.

32 (3) In order for the Department of Education to better
33 understand the resources and support needed to assist districts in
34 improving their technology programs, the department shall conduct
35 the following surveys at least every two (2) years:

36 (a) A detailed technology survey for district
37 technology leaders; and

38 (b) A detailed survey for teaching staff regarding
39 technology use in the classroom, including analyzing the
40 effectiveness of the Equity in Distance Learning Act.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-13-137, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 37-13-137. (1) The State Board of Education shall adopt
44 regulations as provided in this section not later than March 1,
45 2008, which shall be effective for compliance by school districts
46 beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, for the Child Nutrition
47 School Breakfast and Lunch Programs that are not in conflict with



48 the regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture
49 (USDA). The regulations shall take into account the most recent
50 and advanced scientific principles regarding good human health and
51 fitness, and the effect of the regulations must be that the good
52 health, well-being and fitness of Mississippi school children
53 shall be advanced. The regulations shall include, but not be
54 limited to, the following areas:

55 (a) Healthy food and beverage choices;

56 (b) Healthy food preparation;

57 (c) Marketing of healthy food choices to students and
58 staff;

59 (d) Food preparation ingredients and products;

60 (e) Minimum and maximum time allotment for students and
61 staff lunch and breakfast periods;

62 (f) The availability of food items during the lunch and
63 breakfast periods of the Child Nutrition School Breakfast and
64 Lunch Programs; and

65 (g) Methods to increase participation in the Child
66 Nutrition School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

67 (2) The Office of Healthy Schools of the State Department of
68 Education shall provide comprehensive training for
69 superintendents, business managers, food service directors and
70 food service managers of a local school district, or the designees
71 appointed by those individuals for training purposes, as required
72 by the department on marketing healthy foods, creating a healthy



73 cafeteria environment, effective and efficient food service
74 operations, the standards and expectations of food service staff,
75 and other topics as identified by the department. The department
76 may determine the time and location of the trainings and the
77 frequency with which they are held. Persons employed by a local
78 school district having the certification as a Food Service
79 Administrator III or IV shall be exempt from the training
80 requirements of this subsection.

81 (3) Local school districts may adopt rules and regulations
82 that may be more stringent but not in conflict with those adopted
83 by the State Board of Education under this section.

84 (4) The Department of Education shall develop guidance to
85 help district nutrition programs improve their meals per labor
86 hour, to ensure efficiency and productivity in food service in
87 schools. The department shall develop a standardized guide to
88 assist districts with strategies to increase their breakfast
89 participation rates.

90 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-41-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
91 amended as follows:

92 37-41-13. (1) All routes shall be laid out so as to place
93 all pupils entitled to transportation within a reasonable distance
94 of same. No child entitled to transportation shall be required to
95 walk a greater distance than one mile to reach the vehicle of
96 transportation in the morning or to reach his home in the
97 afternoon.



98 (2) The Department of Education shall develop guidance for
99 districts to use in assessing and optimizing bus routes with the
100 goal of improving transportation services and reducing costs.

101 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after July 1, 2024.

