## Tabled COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO

## Senate Bill No. 2753

## **BY: Committee**

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- 26 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 27 29-18-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 28 29-18-1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
- 29 "Securing Areas for Females Effectively and Responsibly Act" or
- 30 the "SAFER Act."
- 31 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 32 29-18-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 33 29-18-3. Legislative findings; intermediate scrutiny. (1)
- 34 The Legislature finds that females and males should be provided
- 35 areas, including restrooms, changing facilities and single-sex



- 36 educational housing spaces, for their exclusive use, respective to
- 37 their sex, in order to maintain privacy and safety.
- 38 (2) There are important governmental reasons to distinguish
- 39 between the sexes with respect to spaces where biology, safety,
- 40 and/or privacy are implicated. As such, policies and laws that
- 41 distinguish between the sexes are subject to intermediate
- 42 constitutional scrutiny, which forbids unfair discrimination
- 43 against similarly situated males and females but allows the law to
- 44 distinguish between the sexes where such distinctions are
- 45 substantially related to important governmental objectives.
- 46 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 47 29-18-5, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 48 29-18-5. Chapter definitions. For purposes of this act, the
- 49 following terms shall have the meanings ascribed herein:
- 50 (a) "Changing facility" means a space designated for
- 51 multiple individuals to dress or undress within the same space,
- 52 including, but not limited to, a dressing room, locker room,
- 53 changing room, or shower room. This term does not include a
- 54 unisex changing facility.
- 55 (b) "Single-sex educational housing space" means a
- 56 separate room or area located within a public building functioning
- 57 as housing for student residents at an educational institution and
- 58 designated for use or occupancy only for members of one (1) sex,
- 59 but excludes common areas designated for use by members of both
- 60 sexes.



- 61 (c) "Public building" means any building, facility or
- 62 space owned, operated, rented or leased by, or rented or leased to
- 63 any state agency, public university, public community or junior
- 64 college and the institutions of higher learning.
- (d) "Restroom" means a space designated for multiple
- 66 individuals that includes toilets and/or urinals. This term does
- 67 not include a unisex restroom.
- (e) "Unisex changing facility" means a room intended
- 69 for a single occupant or a family in which one or more persons may
- 70 be in a state of undress, including, but not limited to, a
- 71 dressing room, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is
- 72 enclosed by floor-to-ceiling walls and accessed by a full door
- 73 with a secure lock that prevents another individual from entering
- 74 while the changing facility is in use.
- 75 (f) "Unisex restroom" means a room that includes a
- 76 toilet or urinal and that is intended for a single occupant or a
- 77 family, is enclosed by floor-to-ceiling walls, and is accessed by
- 78 a full door with a secure lock that prevents another individual
- 79 from entering while the room is in use.
- 80 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 81 29-18-7, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 82 29-18-7. **Protection of restroom privacy.** Any public
- 83 building that maintains a restroom shall, at a minimum, have:
- 84 (a) A restroom designated for exclusive use by females
- 85 and a restroom designated for exclusive use by males; or

- 86 (b) A unisex restroom.
- 87 **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 88 29-18-9, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 89 29-18-9. **Protection of changing room privacy.** Any public
- 90 building that maintains a changing facility must, at a minimum,
- 91 have:
- 92 (a) A changing facility designated for exclusive use by
- 93 females and a changing facility designated for exclusive use by
- 94 males; or
- 95 (b) A unisex changing facility.
- 96 **SECTION 6.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 97 29-18-11, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 98 29-18-11. Protection of single-sex educational housing space
- 99 **privacy.** Any student required to reside in housing at an
- 100 educational institution shall have the right to be housed in a
- 101 single-sex educational housing space with persons of the same sex.
- 102 **SECTION 7.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 103 29-18-13, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 104 29-18-13. Social fraternity and sorority single-sex housing
- 105 facilities on public lands shall comply with state law. Social
- 106 fraternities and sororities at educational institutions that have
- 107 and operate single-sex housing facilities located on public land
- 108 shall comply with the definitions contained within this act for
- 109 purposes of maintaining such facilities as single sex only.



- 110 **SECTION 8.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 111 29-18-15, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 112 29-18-15. Permissible purposes to enter sex-designated
- 113 restrooms, changing facilities or single-sex educational housing
- 114 spaces. For purposes of this act, a person may not enter a
- 115 restroom, changing facility, or single-sex educational housing
- 116 space, designated for the opposite sex, except under the following
- 117 circumstances:
- 118 (a) To accompany a person of the opposite sex for the
- 119 purpose of assisting or chaperoning a child under the age of
- 120 twelve (12), a vulnerable person as defined in Section 43-47-5, or
- 121 a person with a disability as defined in Section 43-6-203(b);
- 122 (b) For law enforcement, fire protection or response,
- 123 or other public safety purposes;
- 124 (c) For governmental purposes, including employees or
- 125 contractors of governmental entities acting within the scope of
- 126 their employment or contract;
- 127 (d) For the purpose of rendering emergency medical
- 128 assistance or to intervene in any other emergency situation where
- 129 the health or safety of another person is at risk;
- 130 (e) For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes,
- 131 provided that the restroom or changing facility is not in use;
- 132 (f) If the appropriate designated restroom or changing
- 133 facility is out of order or under repair and the restroom or



- 134 changing facility designated for the opposite sex contains no
- 135 person of the opposite sex; or
- 136 (g) In single-sex educational housing spaces as
- 137 authorized by educational institutions for moving, visiting,
- 138 administrative, health, or other authorized purposes.
- 139 **SECTION 9.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 140 29-18-17, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 141 29-18-17. **Private enforcement**. (1) A person may assert a
- 142 violation of this act as a claim or defense in a judicial or
- 143 administrative proceeding.
- 144 (2) Any person under eighteen (18) years of age may bring an
- 145 action at any time to assert a violation of this act through a
- 146 parent or next friend and may bring an action in their own name
- 147 upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) years of age.
- 148 (3) No private cause of action against a state agency,
- 149 public university, public community college or junior college, or
- 150 the institutions of higher learning is authorized by this act.
- 151 **SECTION 10.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 152 29-18-19, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 153 29-18-19. **Attorney General enforcement.** (1) The Attorney
- 154 General shall bring an action to enforce compliance with this act.
- 155 (2) This act shall not be construed to deny, impair, or
- 156 otherwise affect any right or authority of the Attorney General,
- 157 the State of Mississippi, or any agency, officer, or employee of



- 158 the state, acting under any law other than this act, to institute
- 159 or intervene in any proceeding.
- 160 **SECTION 11.** The following shall be codified as Section
- 161 1-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 162 1-3-83. **Female, male, sex of natural persons.** (1) "Female"
- 163 means an individual who naturally has, had, will have, or would
- 164 have, but for a developmental or genetic anomaly or historical
- 165 accident, the reproductive system that at some point produces,
- 166 transports, and utilizes eggs for fertilization.
- 167 (2) "Male" means an individual who naturally has, had, will
- 168 have, or would have, but for a developmental or genetic anomaly or
- 169 historical accident, the reproductive system that at some point
- 170 produces, transports, and utilizes sperm for fertilization.
- 171 (3) "Sex," when used to classify a natural person, means the
- 172 biological indication of male and female as observed or clinically
- 173 verified at birth, without regard to an individual's "gender
- 174 identity" or any other terms intended to convey a person's
- 175 psychological, chosen, or subjective experience or sense of self.
- 176 (4) The following additional provisions apply to the use of
- 177 "sex" and related terms:
- 178 (a) There are only two (2) sexes, and every individual
- 179 is either male or female.
- 180 (b) "Sex" is objective and fixed.
- 181 (c) Persons with "DSD conditions" (sometimes referred
- 182 to as "differences in sex development", "disorders of sex

- development", or "intersex conditions") are not members of a third sex.
- (d) The foregoing definition of "sex," for purposes of state law, neither requires nor precludes the accommodation of persons with a congenital and physically verifiable diagnosis of "DSD condition" (sometimes referred to as "differences in sex development", "disorders of sex development", or "intersex conditions"); however, such accommodation may be required by
  - SECTION 12. Severability. Any provision of this act is held to be invalid or unenforceable by its terms, or as applied to any person or circumstance, shall be construed so as to give it the maximum effect permitted by law, unless such holding shall be one of utter invalidity or unenforceability, in which event such provision shall be deemed severable herefrom and shall not affect the remainder hereof or the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other, dissimilar circumstances.
- SECTION 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2025.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

<sup>4 1972,</sup> TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS FOR THE ACT; TO CREATE NEW



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federal law.

AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF

<sup>2 1972,</sup> TO CREATE THE "SAFER ACT" TO REGULATE GOVERNMENTAL

<sup>3</sup> BUILDINGS; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF

- 5 SECTION 29-18-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS
- 6 FOR THE ACT; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
- 7 1972, TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PUBLIC BUILDINGS TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE MALE
- 8 AND/OR FEMALE RESTROOMS OR UNISEX RESTROOMS AT A MINIMUM; TO
- 9 CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE
- 10 CHANGING FACILITIES TO BE EXCLUSIVE MALE AND/OR FEMALE OR UNISEX
- 11 AT A MINIMUM; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
- 12 1972, TO REGULATE PUBLIC STUDENT HOUSING FOR SINGLE-SEX
- 13 EDUCATIONAL HOUSING; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-13, MISSISSIPPI
- 14 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE SINGLE-SEX SOCIAL SORORITIES AND
- 15 FRATERNITIES TO COMPLY WITH THE DEFINITIONS OF THIS ACT TO
- 16 DESIGNATE HOUSING; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-15, MISSISSIPPI
- 17 CODE OF 1972, TO REGULATE HOW PERSONS ENTER A SINGLE-SEX RESTROOM,
- 18 CHANGING FACILITY OR EDUCATIONAL HOUSING SPACE; TO CREATE NEW
- 19 SECTION 29-18-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE ASSERTION
- 20 OF A VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 29-18-19,
- 21 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
- 22 BRING ACTION REGARDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO CREATE NEW
- 23 SECTION 1-3-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DEFINE THE TERMS
- 24 FEMALE, MALE AND SEX; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.