

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 1192

BY: Committee

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-161-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-161-3. (1) The Legislature finds and declares the
11 following:

12 (a) Meeting the educational needs of children in our
13 state's schools is of the greatest importance to the future
14 welfare of the State of Mississippi;

15 (b) Closing the achievement gap between high-performing
16 students, including the achievement gap among at-risk students, is
17 a significant and present challenge;



18 (c) Providing a broader range of educational options to
19 parents and utilizing existing resources, along with technology,
20 may help students in the state improve their academic achievement;
21 and

22 (d) Many of the state's school districts currently lack
23 the capacity to provide other public school choices for students
24 whose schools are low performing.

25 (2) There is created the Mississippi Virtual Public School
26 Program, which is the responsibility of the State Department of
27 Education. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
28 Mississippi Virtual Public School established under this section
29 provides Mississippi families with an alternative choice to access
30 additional educational resources in an effort to improve academic
31 achievement. The Mississippi Virtual Public School must be
32 recognized as a public school and provide equitable treatment and
33 resources as are other public schools in the state. Private
34 providers, overseen by the State Department of Education, may be
35 selected by the State Board of Education to administer, manage or
36 operate virtual school programs in this state, including the total
37 operation of the Mississippi Virtual Public School Program. Any
38 private provider chosen to provide services under the provisions
39 of this subsection shall be chosen through the Mississippi Online
40 Course Application Process.

41 (3) Nothing in this section may be interpreted as precluding
42 the use of computer- and Internet-based instruction for students



43 in a virtual or remote setting utilizing the Mississippi Virtual
44 Public School.

45 (4) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
46 have the meanings respectively ascribed unless the context clearly
47 requires otherwise:

48 (a) "Mississippi Virtual Public School" means a public
49 school in which the state uses technology in order to deliver
50 instruction to students via the Internet in a virtual or remote
51 setting.

52 (b) "Sponsor" means the public school district is
53 responsible for the academic process for each student, including,
54 but not limited to, enrollment, awarding of credit and monitoring
55 progress.

56 (5) (a) The State Board of Education shall establish the
57 Mississippi Virtual Public School beginning in school year
58 2006-2007.

59 (b) Students who enroll in the Mississippi Virtual
60 Public School may reside anywhere in the State of Mississippi.

61 (6) Subject to appropriation, the Mississippi Virtual Public
62 School shall provide to each student enrolled in the school all
63 necessary instructional materials. Subject to appropriation, the
64 sponsored school must ensure that each student is provided access
65 to the necessary technology, such as a computer and printer, and
66 to an Internet connection for schoolwork purposes.



67 (7) The Mississippi Department of Education shall have
68 approval authority for all coursework and policy of the
69 Mississippi Virtual Public School.

70 (8) Each teacher employed by or participating in the
71 delivery of instruction through the Mississippi Virtual Public
72 School must meet all qualifications for licensure in the State of
73 Mississippi.

74 (9) Any student who meets state residency requirements may
75 enroll in the Mississippi Virtual Public School.

76 (10) Enrollment in the Mississippi Virtual Public School
77 shall be free of charge to students. The costs associated with
78 the operations of the virtual school must be shared by the State
79 Department of Education, subject to appropriation, and/or the
80 local school districts. Once the State Department of Education
81 appropriation and the local school district budgeted funds for
82 Mississippi Virtual Public School have been expended and students
83 choose to enroll in online courses, the costs of the online
84 courses may be the responsibility of the students' parents or
85 guardians.

86 (11) The Mississippi Department of Education is directed to
87 provide a report on the Mississippi Virtual Public School and
88 recommendations related to the future role of virtual education in
89 public schools to the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee
90 and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Education
91 Committee by October 1, 2024. The report shall include, but not



92 be limited to, an update on the history, cost, usage and student
93 achievement related to the current Mississippi Virtual Public
94 School and other virtual education programs which may exist in
95 school districts across the state. The report shall also include,
96 but not be limited to, recommendations related to using virtual
97 education tools, including tools provided by or used by other
98 public schools districts in Mississippi and/or third party
99 vendors, to address student achievement, access to courses and
100 teacher shortages in public schools.

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

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

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-161-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON THE
3 MISSISSIPPI VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO
4 THE FUTURE ROLE OF VIRTUAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO THE
5 CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EDUCATION
6 COMMITTEES BY OCTOBER 1, 2024; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

