

By: Representative Summers

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1377

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 CONDUCT A STUDY AND ASSESSMENT OF ALL PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOL
3 FACILITIES; TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCURE THE SERVICES OF
4 A THIRD-PARTY PROVIDER SPECIALIZING IN FACILITY OPTIMIZATION TO
5 CONDUCT THE STUDY AND ASSESSMENT; TO SPECIFY THE SCOPE OF THE
6 STUDY AND ASSESSMENT; TO REQUIRE A REPORT OF FINDINGS TO BE
7 SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR; TO AUTHORIZE THE
8 APPROPRIATION OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM STATE LOTTERY PROCEEDS
9 TO FUND THE STUDY AND ASSESSMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds that a comprehensive
12 evaluation of public and charter school facilities is necessary to
13 ensure the optimal utilization of academic space, assess current
14 facility conditions, and identify opportunities for modernization.
15 Such an evaluation is critical to prioritize expenditures
16 efficiently within budget limitations while considering
17 construction project costs and the life cycle costs of facilities'
18 capital maintenance, repair, and renovation.

19 SECTION 2. (1) The State Department of Education shall
20 conduct a study and assessment of all public and charter school
21 facilities across the state.



22 (2) The department is authorized to procure the services of
23 a third-party provider specializing in facilities optimization,
24 infrastructure assessment, and budget prioritization to assist
25 with the study.

26 (3) The study and assessment shall include, but not be
27 limited to, the following areas:

28 (a) Facilities' conditions assessment, including
29 structural integrity, safety, and compliance with applicable
30 standards and codes;

31 (b) Utilization of academic space, evaluating whether
32 current facilities meet the needs of students and educators
33 effectively; and

34 (c) Facilities modernization, identifying opportunities
35 for upgrades and renovations to align with modern educational
36 practices and technology.

43 **SECTION 3.** The Legislature shall appropriate Five Million
44 Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) of the portion of state lottery proceeds
45 dedicated for deposit into the Education Enhancement Fund to the
46 State Department of Education for the purpose of funding the study



47 and assessment. Of the funds appropriated, the department shall
48 allocate Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00)
49 for fiscal year 2026 for purposes of this act, and the second Two
50 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) shall be
51 allocated in fiscal year 2027.

52 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2025.

