

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Parker

To: Universities and
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2530

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-11-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCLUDE A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN; TO AMEND
3 SECTION 37-11-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE COLLEGES
4 AND UNIVERSITIES TO CREATE A MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE
5 PLAN; TO REQUIRE STAFF TRAINING; TO REQUIRE COLLEGES AND
6 UNIVERSITIES TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
7 WITH THEIR STUDENTS AT CERTAIN TIMES AND IN CERTAIN MANNERS; TO
8 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, THE IHL BOARD, AND THE
9 MCCB TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN COMPLYING
10 WITH THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PARTNER
11 WITH CERTAIN ENTITIES TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH
12 RESOURCES AT THE LOWEST AND BEST COST; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-11-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
15 amended as follows:

16 37-11-85. The following terms shall have the meanings
17 ascribed herein:

18 (a) "Cardiac and Mental Health Emergency Response Plan
19 (CMHERP)" shall mean a written document that establishes the
20 specific steps to reduce death or injury from cardiac arrest or
21 mental health emergencies in any setting - be it a school,
22 community college, public university, community organization,
23 workplace, or sports facility.



(b) "Automated External Defibrillator (AED)" shall mean a lightweight, portable device that delivers an electric shock through the chest to the heart. The shock can potentially stop an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

(c) "Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)" means when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly, and if not treated within minutes, it quickly leads to death.

SECTION 2. Section 37-11-87, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-11-87. (1) Beginning in the * * * 2025-2026 school year, each public school, community college or university shall develop a cardiac and mental health emergency response plan (CMHERP) that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a mental health emergency or a similar life-threatening emergency while on school grounds.

(2) Beginning in the * * * 2025-2026 school year, each public school, community college or public university with an athletic department or organized athletic program shall develop a cardiac emergency response plan that addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, a mental health emergency or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending



or participating in an athletic practice or event while on school grounds.

(3) School officials shall work directly with local emergency service providers to integrate the CMHERP into the community's EMS responder protocols. Each plan shall integrate evidence-based core elements, such as those recommended by the American Heart Association guidelines, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health or another nationally recognized, evidence-based standard.

(4) The CMHERP shall integrate, at a minimum, the following guidelines, to be updated from time to time:

(a) Establishing a cardiac and mental health emergency response team;

(b) Activating the team in response to a SCA or mental health emergency;

(c) A plan for implementing AED placement and routine maintenance within the school;

(d) Disseminating the plan throughout the school campus;

(e) Maintaining ongoing staff training in CPR/AED use, as well as mental health first aid training;

(f) Practicing using drills annually;

(g) Integrating local EMS with the plan; and

(h) Ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the plan.



73 (5) Appropriate AED placement shall be dictated by the CERP
74 and in accordance with guidelines set by the American Heart
75 Association or another nationally recognized, evidence-based
76 standard. A school or local and regional board of education may
77 accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations
78 designated for the purchase of an AED that meets the standards
79 established by the United States Food and Drug Administration and
80 for the costs incurred to inspect and maintain such device and
81 train staff in the use of such device.

82 (6) All teachers, administrators and other appropriate
83 school staff shall be trained in first-aid, mental health first
84 aid training, CPR, and AED use that follow evidence-based
85 guidelines set forth by the American Heart Association, the
86 Mississippi Department of Mental Health or another nationally
87 recognized, evidence-based standard. * * * The Mississippi
88 Community College Board and the Board of Trustees of the
89 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning shall, in conjunction
90 with the institutions and colleges, determine staff to be trained
91 on community college and public university campuses, including,
92 but not limited to, healthcare providers, counselors and resident
93 assistants.

94 **SECTION 3.** (1) All public institutions of higher learning
95 and community and junior colleges in the State of Mississippi
96 shall be required to share information at their new student
97 orientations about support services offered on campus, including



counseling centers, health clinics and telehealth services.
Additionally, all public institutions of higher learning and
community and junior colleges shall make information concerning
college or university policies related to the mental and
behavioral health and wellbeing of students available on the
institution's public webpage, as well as in public places
including dormitories, libraries and other common areas.

(2) The Mississippi Department of Mental Health, in
collaboration with the Mississippi Community College Board and the
Board of Directors of the State Institutions of Higher Learning,
shall develop information and materials to distribute to all
incoming students regarding mental and behavioral health and
wellbeing, as well as materials concerning the same to be
distributed to other parties involved in student life, including
parents, community members and business owners.

(3) Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, each public
institution of higher learning and community or junior college
shall develop a plan, in coordination with the Mississippi
Department of Mental Health, to provide information concerning
mental and behavioral health and wellbeing resources to all
incoming students, without regard to whether those students attend
a new student orientation.

(4) The Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi
Community College Board, the Board of Directors of the
Institutions of Higher Learning, and the Mississippi Department of



Mental Health shall, in coordination, provide guidance as needed to community and junior colleges and public institutions of higher learning regarding mental health screenings and resources for students.

(5) All public institutions and colleges subject to the purview of either the Mississippi Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board shall partner with either Community Mental Health Centers, including Crisis Intervention Teams, or private providers in order to provide high quality mental health resources at the lowest and best cost, including free resources.

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

