

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.

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

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

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

34 37-11-87. (1) Beginning in the * * * 2025-2026 school year,
35 each public school, community college or university shall develop
36 a cardiac and mental health emergency response plan (CMHERP) that
37 addresses the appropriate use of school personnel to respond to
38 incidents involving an individual experiencing sudden cardiac
39 arrest, a mental health emergency or a similar life-threatening
40 emergency while on school grounds.



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

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

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

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

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

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

65 (d) Disseminating the plan throughout the school
66 campus;

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

69 (f) Practicing using drills annually;

70 (g) Integrating local EMS with the plan; and

71 (h) Ongoing and annual review and evaluation of the
72 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.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

