

By: Representative Scoggins

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 356

1       AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL RISK MANAGEMENT TASK  
2 FORCE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE WILL CONTINUALLY STUDY  
3 ENSURING AND ENHANCING RISK MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS AND  
4 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTION AND RESPONSE;  
5 TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
6 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE THE TASK  
7 FORCE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
8 LEGISLATURE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10       SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi School Risk  
11 Management Task Force for the purpose of the continual study of  
12 ensuring and enhancing risk management in school environments for  
13 administrators and the implementation of best practices for  
14 prevention and response.

15       (2) The task force shall perform the following duties:

16           (a) Assess the needs of school districts regarding risk  
17 management and response by gathering input from school board  
18 members, administrators and other relevant stakeholders;

19           (b) Review emergency action plans currently in place  
20 across Mississippi's school districts and identify if existing

21 plans address temporary school planning if a school is destroyed  
22 or damaged by a natural or manmade disaster;

23 (c) Recommend best practices for emergency response to  
24 include in emergency action plans, including, but not limited to,  
25 annual tabletop exercises for floods, tornados, hurricanes,  
26 earthquakes, derechos, manmade disasters and other disaster types;

27 (d) Determine the feasibility of implementation of  
28 and/or the necessity of exemptions or waivers for recommended risk  
29 management strategies in private, religious, charter, military or  
30 home schools;

31 (e) Review existing resources for risk management  
32 across school districts and identify how school boards may work  
33 with their local county emergency managers and the Mississippi  
34 Emergency Management Agency to increase resources, including, but  
35 not limited to, applying for grants under the FEMA Hazard  
36 Mitigation Grant Program;

37 (f) Develop a plan for the implementation of emergency  
38 action plans and the construction of safe rooms for any new school  
39 construction in each school district;

40 (g) Ensure oversight for the implementation of  
41 emergency action plans, safe rooms, and any other risk management  
42 strategies identified by the task force by establishing a system  
43 of review and recommending an agency or entity to monitor risk  
44 management effectiveness and make needed improvements; and



45 (h) Recommend relevant changes to Mississippi law and  
46 other state and local policies that can be implemented by state  
47 and local government entities to accomplish the goals of the task  
48 force.

55 (b) The State Superintendent of Public Education, who  
56 shall serve as the Vice Chairman, and four (4) members of the  
57 State Department of Education, one (1) of whom shall be from the  
58 Office of School Financial Services and one (1) of whom shall be  
59 the Director of the Office of Safe and Orderly Schools within the  
60 State Department of Education;

61 (c) The Chairmen of the Education Committees of the  
62 House of Representatives and Senate;

63 (d) The Chairmen of the Judiciary A Committees of the  
64 House of Representatives and Senate;

65 (e) Three (3) members of the State Department of  
66 Health;

67 (f) A representative from the Office of the Governor;

68 (g) The Attorney General;

69 (h) Six (6) county emergency managers, two (2) selected  
70 from the northern, central and southern areas of the state;

71 (i) A school superintendent, appointed by the Governor  
72 from the state-at-large;

73 (j) A representative of the Mississippi School Board  
74 Association;

75 (k) A school resource officer, appointed by the  
76 Governor from the state-at-large;

77 (1) A parent representative, appointed by the State  
78 Superintendent of Public Education from the state-at-large; and

79 (m) A representative of the Mississippi Association of  
80 School Superintendents.

91 (4) Members of the task force shall receive a per diem in  
92 the amount provided in Section 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the  
93 business of the task force. Members of the task force, other than

94 the legislative members, shall receive reimbursement for travel  
95 expenses incurred while engaged in official business of the task  
96 force in accordance with Section 25-3-41 and the legislative  
97 members of the task force shall receive the expense allowance  
98 provided for in Section 5-1-47.

99 (5) The task force shall verify that each school district is  
100 included in the local county emergency hazard mitigation plan.

101 (6) The task force shall report its findings and  
102 recommendations, including any recommended legislation and funding  
103 needs, to the Legislature annually not later than December 1 each  
104 year.

105 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
106 and after its passage.