

By: Representatives Steverson, Hawkins,
Lancaster

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 654

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-14-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DIRECT THE OFFICE OF HEALTHY SCHOOLS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
3 EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A SALARY SCHEDULE FOR SCHOOL NURSES BASED ON
4 THEIR EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE THAT ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL USE
5 WHEN EMPLOYING SCHOOL NURSES, WHICH SCHEDULE SHALL BE THE MINIMUM
6 SALARY AMOUNTS PAID TO SCHOOL NURSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-14-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-14-3. (1) The State Department of Education is
11 designated as the state agency responsible for the administration
12 and supervision of the school nurse program as an education and
13 wellness curriculum in the public schools of the State of
14 Mississippi. The public school nurse program administered by the
15 State Department of Education shall be known and may be cited as
16 the "Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell-Mary Sprayberry Public School Nurse
17 Program." It is the intent of the Legislature that all funds made
18 available to the State Department of Education for the purpose of
19 employing school nurses shall be administered by the State
20 Department of Education.



21 (2) The State Department of Education, through the Office of
22 Healthy Schools, shall develop standards, procedures and criteria
23 for the public school nurse programs in Kindergarten through Grade
24 12. The Office of Healthy Schools of the State Department of
25 Education shall assume the responsibility for promoting a
26 statewide school nurse program designed to prepare local school
27 districts to incorporate the school program into their local
28 educational programs.

29 (3) From and after July 1, 2007, the School Nurse
30 Intervention Program administered and funded by the State
31 Department of Health shall be transferred to the Office of Healthy
32 Schools of the State Department of Education. Any administrative
33 personnel employed by the State Department of Health for the
34 administration of school nurses under the School Nurse
35 Intervention Program may be considered for employment by the
36 Office of Healthy Schools of the State Department of Education for
37 the purpose of coordinating the employment of school nurses in the
38 school districts. Any administrative personnel formerly employed
39 by the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, Inc., for the
40 administration of school nurses in the public schools may be
41 considered for employment by the Office of Healthy Schools of the
42 State Department of Education for the purpose of coordinating the
43 employment of school nurses in the school districts. All records
44 and unexpended balances of accounts in the School Nurse
45 Intervention Program relating to the employment of school nurses



46 shall be transferred to the Office of Healthy Schools in the State
47 Department of Education in accordance with the transfer of
48 responsibility under this chapter.

49 (4) The nurses in the Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell-Mary
50 Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program shall have the following
51 specific responsibilities:

52 (a) Serve as the coordinator of the health services
53 program and provide nursing care;

54 (b) Provide health education to students;

55 (c) Implement activities to promote health and prevent
56 tobacco, alcohol and substance use and abuse;

57 (d) Identify health and safety concerns in the school
58 environment and promote a nurturing social environment;

59 (e) Administer medications and help students manage
60 their health problems;

61 (f) Support healthy food services programs;

62 (g) Promote healthy physical education, sports policies
63 and practices;

64 (h) Promote dropout prevention programs; and

65 (i) Participate in allied health programs to introduce
66 students to health careers.

67 (5) The Office of Healthy Schools of the State Department of
68 Education shall provide resources to all public school nurses so
69 that those schools with school nurses will be prepared to provide
70 health education in Mississippi schools and support the



71 Mississippi Comprehensive Health Framework, Mississippi Physical
72 Education Framework, Wellness Policy, coordinated approach to
73 school health, and other resources required by the State Board of
74 Education.

75 (6) In administering the Mary Kirkpatrick Haskell-Mary
76 Sprayberry Public School Nurse Program, the Office of Healthy
77 Schools of the State Department of Education shall perform the
78 following duties:

79 (a) Execute any contracts, agreements or other
80 documents with any governmental agency or any person, corporation,
81 association, partnership or other organization or entity that are
82 necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter;

83 (b) Receive grants or any other contributions made to
84 the State Board of Education to be used for specific purposes
85 related to the goals of this chapter;

86 (c) Submit to the State Auditor any financial records
87 that are necessary for the Auditor to perform an annual audit of
88 the commission as required by law;

89 (d) Adopt any rules or regulations that are necessary
90 to carry out the purposes of this chapter;

91 (e) Develop criteria to measure the effectiveness of a
92 school nurse;

93 (f) Communicate to superintendents and principals how
94 to maximize the effectiveness of a public school nurse;



95 (g) Develop * * * a salary * * * schedule for school
96 nurses based on their education and experience that all school
97 districts * * * shall use when * * * employing school nurses,
98 which schedule shall be the minimum salary amounts paid to those
99 school nurses;

100 (h) Communicate to superintendents, principals and
101 other appropriate school officials regarding the statutes and
102 regulations prohibiting the use of tobacco by school personnel on
103 school property and at school events, and to monitor the
104 effectiveness of this ban;

105 (i) Implement policies to reduce unnecessary paperwork
106 by public school nurses; and

107 (j) Take any other actions that are necessary to carry
108 out the purposes of this chapter.

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

