

By: Representatives Miles, Crawford, Bain,
Nelson

To: Education; Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 200

1 AN ACT TO CREATE "ERIN'S LAW"; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PURPOSE OF
2 THE LAW IS TO IMPLEMENT CURRICULUM FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL
3 ABUSE FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO CREATE THE
4 ERIN'S LAW COMMISSION TO ADOPT A CURRICULUM NO LATER THAN JANUARY
5 1, 2015; TO PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CURRICULUM; TO
6 REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO IMPLEMENT THE CURRICULUM BEGINNING
7 WITH THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR; TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO
8 CHOOSE AN ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM; TO ALLOW PARENTS TO OPT-OUT OF
9 THE CURRICULUM INSTRUCTION FOR THEIR CHILDREN; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN
10 DISTRICT AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO BE DESIGNATED WITH RESPONSIBILITY
11 FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ERIN'S LAW; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPORTING OF
12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH ERIN'S LAW; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as
16 "Erin's Law."

17 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created the Erin's Law Commission
18 for the purpose of creating and implementing curriculum for the
19 prevention of sexual abuse for children in the State of
20 Mississippi. The commission shall be comprised of the following
21 six (6) members:

22 (a) The Director of the Children's Justice Center, or
23 his designee;



24 (b) The State Superintendent of Education, or his
25 designee;

26 (c) The Attorney General, or his designee;

27 (d) The Lieutenant Governor, or his designee, as an
28 advisory, nonvoting member; and

29 (e) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his
30 designee, as an advisory, nonvoting member.

31 (2) The commission shall adopt curriculum for the prevention
32 of sexual abuse for students from kindergarten through fifth grade
33 no later than January 1, 2015. The curriculum shall:

34 (a) be evidence-based;

35 (b) be age-appropriate and culturally-sensitive;

36 (c) include a minimum of four (4) programs to be
37 conducted during the school year;

38 (d) involve the students as active learning
39 participants, including discussion, modeling and role playing;

40 (e) include a professional training component for
41 administrators, teachers and other school personnel on talking to
42 students about child sexual abuse prevention, the effects of child
43 sexual abuse on children, handling disclosures and mandated
44 reporting; and

45 (f) include a component that encourages parental
46 involvement in child sexual abuse prevention.

47 (3) The curriculum adopted by the commission shall be made
48 available on the Children's Justice Center website and shall be



49 updated by the commission as necessary to effectuate the purpose
50 of this act. There shall be no cost to the school districts to
51 access the website and curriculum.

52 (4) Each school district in the state is required to
53 implement the curriculum beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.
54 However, the school board of any school district may choose to
55 implement an alternative curriculum that meets the criteria under
56 subsection (2) of this section if that curriculum is approved by
57 the commission and the costs are incurred by the school district.

58 (5) Each school district shall provide the parents or
59 guardians of each student with written notice of the opportunity
60 to opt-out of the curriculum required under this section or an
61 alternative curriculum adopted by a school district under
62 subsection (3) of this section. If the parents or guardians of a
63 student opt-out of the curriculum in accordance with the written
64 notice, the school district shall not provide the curriculum
65 instruction to that student.

66 (6) The superintendent of each school district shall
67 designate one of the district's personnel for responsibility for
68 the district's compliance with this act. The principal of each
69 school shall designate one of the school's personnel for
70 responsibility for the school's compliance with this act.

71 (7) Any school district not in compliance with this section
72 shall be reported by the commission to the State Department of



73 Education and the Legislature by January 1 of each school year
74 beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

75 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
76 and after its passage.

