

PURPOSE: Correction of Student Handbook RL.45. To permit the use of heating pads

INTRODUCED BY: Aanya Banga

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SECTION ONE (DEFINITIONS):

Heating Pads: A heating pad is a device used to warm specific parts of the body, helping to manage pain. Localized application of heat causes the blood vessels in that area to dilate, enhancing perfusion to the targeted tissue.

SECTION TWO (REASONING):

The reasoning behind this bill is to address the frequent and significant temperature fluctuations that occur within residential dormitories. Dorm rooms often experience inconsistent heating, with temperatures varying drastically throughout the day and night. This inconsistency can lead to discomfort, disrupt students' ability to focus or sleep, and negatively impact their overall well-being. Allowing the use of heating pads would provide students with a valuable tool to regulate their immediate environment, enhancing comfort and health.

In addition, many students suffer from muscle cramps, menstrual cycle cramps, soreness, or other physical discomforts that could be relieved with heating pads. These devices offer targeted relief, making them especially important for students who may not have other effective solutions for these issues in their living spaces.

While the lack of heating pads in dorms is primarily due to safety concerns, including potential fire hazards, this bill acknowledges that with the proper safety protocols in place, these risks can be mitigated. By implementing strict guidelines, safety checks, and specific device restrictions (such as power limits, surge protectors, or pad types), we can ensure safe usage of these devices. With these precautions, the benefits of allowing heating pads can be realized without compromising student safety.

SECTION THREE (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 86 of the Student Handbook (PDF page 92), under the section “Student Affairs, Residence Life; Approved and Non-Approved Items” the following would be changed to:

Laser pointers	Non-power strip extension cords	Motorized scooters
Televisions	Cooking Appliances	Heated Blankets
Monitors/Displays larger than 40”	Hammocks	Portable heaters
Couches over 6 feet long	Exercise Weights	Weapons

Handcuffs	Burning Incense	Pets
Martial arts equipment	Dangerous scientific equipment	Open flame items like candles
Halogen lights	Darts and dartboards	Empty alcohol containers used as decorations
Spray paint/ Fixatives/other harmful aerosols	Spray paint/ Fixatives/other harmful aerosols	Volatile, caustic/corrosive, and/or flammable solvents
Toxic glues/cements/other adhesives	Items removed from public spaces	

*Heated blankets are allowed so long as blankets and wires are in good condition and the blanket has an auto-off feature.

SECTION THREE (APPENDIX):

RESPONSE 1 (Goen Junior):

“During the winter, it can get very cold in the dorms, and heated materials like blankets and pads are necessary. Adding this to the approved items should be essential so students can keep warm during the cold seasons.”

RESPONSE 2 (Frazer Junior– Jake Heisler):

~~“As a feminist, I understand the issues of heating pads deeply. Our sisters need their heating pads to relieve themselves of the world’s greatest tragedy against women—the menstrual cycle. I have tried a heating pad before, and it was amazing. I can’t imagine living without it, and I don’t see why our sisters should have to. Black Lives Matter.”~~

RESPONSE 3 (Frazer Junior- Noah Maksi):

“As a fellow MSMS student who has sisters at home, I realize how dramatic a difference heating pads can make in a woman’s life to battle her treacherous menstrual cycle’s cramps. There are many options to avoid the safety hazard and still promote the well-being of women. I have had experience with them from cramps and will say the experience is euphoric. I will invest in them myself if this bill gets passed. #Feminism #MSMSforWomen”