

By: Representative Janus

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 928

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE SECURITY PERSONNEL OF HOUSING AUTHORITIES
2 AS PEACE OFFICERS; TO PRESCRIBE THE DUTIES OF SUCH PEACE OFFICERS;
3 TO REQUIRE TRAINING; TO REQUIRE AN OATH OF OFFICE; TO REQUIRE
4 BONDING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) The governing body of any housing authority
7 within the State of Mississippi may, in its discretion, employ one
8 or more persons as security personnel and shall be authorized to
9 designate them as peace officers in or on any property operated
10 for housing purposes by such housing authority upon taking such
11 oath and making such bond as required of a constable.

12 (2) The governing body is authorized and empowered, in its
13 discretion, and subject to the approval of the Federal
14 Communications Commission, to install and operate a noncommercial
15 radio broadcasting and transmission station for educational and
16 vocational educational purposes.

17 SECTION 2. Any act which, if committed within the limits of
18 a city, town or village, or in any public place, would be a
19 violation of the general laws of this state, shall be criminal and
20 punishable if done on the property, grounds or roads of any of the
21 housing authorities of this state. The peace officers duly
22 appointed by the governing body of any housing authority are
23 vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a constable
24 for the purpose of preventing all violations of law on housing
25 authority property within the housing authority, and for
26 preserving order and decorum thereon.

27 SECTION 3. (1) It shall be the duty of the security

28 personnel of a housing authority to keep and preserve the peace
29 within the property of his respective housing authority, by
30 faithfully aiding and assisting in executing the criminal laws of
31 the state; to give information, without delay, to some justice
32 court judge or other proper officer, of all riots, routs and
33 unlawful assemblies, and of every violation of the penal laws
34 which may come to his knowledge in any manner whatsoever; to
35 execute and return all process, civil and criminal, lawfully
36 directed to him, according to the command thereof; and to pay over
37 all moneys, when collected by him to the person lawfully
38 authorized to receive the same.

39 (2) During the term of office, each security officer shall
40 satisfactorily complete an appropriate curriculum established by
41 the Board on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training in
42 the field of law enforcement at the Mississippi Law Enforcement
43 Officers' Training Academy or such other police academies that are
44 approved by the Board on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and
45 Training pursuant to Section 45-6-9. The governing body of the
46 housing authority shall be responsible for paying, only one (1)
47 time, the tuition, living and travel expenses incurred by any
48 officer in attendance at such training program or curriculum. If
49 such officer does not satisfactorily complete such program or
50 curriculum, any further training which may be required by this
51 section shall be completed at the expense of such officer. No
52 officer shall be entitled to the receipt of any fees, costs or
53 compensation authorized by law after the first twelve (12) months
54 in office if he fails to satisfactorily complete the academy
55 within twelve (12) months after his taking office.

56 SECTION 4. Security personnel of housing authorities shall
57 take the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution and give
58 bond, with sufficient surety, to be payable, conditioned and
59 approved as provided by law and in the same manner as county
60 officials, in a penalty equal to Twenty-five Thousand Dollars

61 (\$25,000.00). The bond premium for each officer shall be paid by
62 the governing body of the housing authority. The governing body
63 may at any time require such additional sum as it deems necessary.

64 SECTION 5. On or before January 7, 1990, the Board on Law
65 Enforcement Officers Standards and Training shall submit to the
66 Mississippi State Legislature a proposal describing the training
67 program required by this act, which is specifically designed for
68 the training of security personnel of housing authorities. The
69 proposal shall set forth in detail the nature and scope of the
70 curriculum and time period of training for officers, with due
71 consideration being given to the specific duties and
72 responsibilities of such officers.

73 SECTION 6. The provisions of this act shall be codified in
74 Chapter 33, Title 43, Mississippi Code of 1972.

75 SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from
76 and after July 1, 1999.