

By: Senator(s) Ferris

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2189

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-3-81 AND 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO DIRECT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
3 ESTABLISH A SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND CRISIS
4 ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, AND TO AUTHORIZE SCHOOL SAFETY
5 GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO FINANCE CERTAIN PROGRAMS TO
6 PROVIDE SCHOOL SAFETY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 37-3-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-3-81. The Department of Education shall establish and
11 maintain a School Safety Center, which shall operate a statewide
12 information clearinghouse that (a) provides assistance to school
13 districts and communities during school crisis; and (b) provides
14 technical assistance to public school officials and parents who
15 need assistance in developing school safety plans and in
16 maintaining a safe school environment.

17 SECTION 2. Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:

19 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State
20 Department of Education a School Safety Grant Program, available
21 to all eligible public school districts, to assist in financing
22 programs to provide school safety.

23 (2) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the
24 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following
25 specific preventive services, and other additional services
26 appropriate to school safety, to be provided through the School
27 Safety Center:

28 (a) Metal detectors;

29 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communication equipment
30 and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school buildings and
31 school buses;

32 (c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school
33 violence; and

34 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution
35 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State
36 Department of Education for faculty and staff.

37 (3) Each local school district of this state may annually
38 apply for * * * school safety grant funds subject to
39 appropriations by the Legislature. In order to be eligible for
40 such program, each local school board desiring to participate
41 shall apply to the State Department of Education by May 31 before
42 the beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by
43 the department, and shall be required to establish a local School
44 Safety Task Force to involve members of the community in the
45 school safety effort. The State Department of Education shall
46 determine by July 1 of each succeeding year which local school
47 districts have submitted approved applications for school safety
48 grants.

49 (4) As part of the school safety grant program, the State
50 Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to research
51 the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the classroom
52 to address the following:

53 (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduces
54 student disciplinary problems;

55 (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing
56 evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the
57 principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

58 (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and
59 receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

60 The results of any such pilot program shall be reported to
61 the Chairmen of the Education Committees in the House of

62 Representatives and Senate by December 15 of the year following
63 implementation of the pilot program. Any funds appropriated by
64 the Legislature for the support of the pilot program shall be used
65 only for the purchase of equipment and supplies necessary for
66 implementation of the pilot program.

67 (5) Any local school district may use video camera equipment
68 in classrooms for the purpose of monitoring school disciplinary
69 problems.

70 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after July 1, 1999.