

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 496

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PLACE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN
3 EVERY CLASSROOM AND ON EVERY SCHOOL BUS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State
8 Department of Education a school violence prevention grant
9 program, available to all eligible public school districts, to
10 assist in financing programs to fight school violence.

11 (2) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the
12 school violence prevention grant program shall offer any of the
13 following specific preventive services and other additional
14 services appropriate to school violence prevention:

15 (a) Metal detectors;

16 (b) Video surveillance cameras and monitoring equipment
17 for classrooms * * * and school buses, as required under
18 subsection (4) of this section;

19 (c) Crisis management/action teams for the purpose of
20 responding to school violence; and

21 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution
22 training and other appropriate training designated by the State
23 Department of Education for faculty and staff.

24 (3) Each local school district in this state may * * * apply
25 annually for up to Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in school
26 violence prevention grant funds, subject to the extent of
27 appropriations specifically therefor by the Legislature. In order



28 to be eligible for such program, each local school board desiring
29 to participate shall apply to the State Department of Education by
30 May 31 before the beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms
31 provided by the department, and shall be required to establish a
32 local school Violence Task Force to involve members of the
33 community in the school violence prevention effort. The State
34 Department of Education shall determine by July 1 of each
35 succeeding fiscal year which local school districts have
36 submitted * * * applications for school violence prevention grants
37 which have been approved by the department.

38 (4) Before July 1, 2002, each local school district shall
39 install video surveillance camera equipment in every classroom and
40 on every school bus for the purpose of monitoring school
41 disciplinary problems. A school district may use school violence
42 prevention grant funds or any other available funds for the
43 purchase of video surveillance camera equipment and monitoring
44 equipment.

45 (5) The State Department of Education shall research the
46 effectiveness of using video surveillance camera equipment in the
47 classroom and on school buses. The department shall address the
48 following issues:

49 (a) The effectiveness of video cameras in the classroom
50 and on school buses in reducing student disciplinary problems;

51 (b) The effectiveness of teachers and bus drivers using
52 the cameras to present clear and convincing evidence of a
53 student's disruptive behavior to the student, the principal, the
54 superintendent and the student's parents; and

55 (c) The effectiveness of teachers using the cameras to
56 review teaching performance and receive diagnostic feedback for
57 developmental purposes.

58 The results of the department's research shall be reported in
59 a study to the Chairmen of the Education Committees in the House
60 of Representatives and Senate by January 1, 2003.



61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 2001.

