To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2002
By: Senator(s) Huggins

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2694

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-4-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO EMPLOY SECURITY GUARDS AND PROMOTE THEM TO "CAMPUS POLICE" AFTER COMPLETING APPROPRIATE TRAINING AT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 41-4-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

41-4-23. (a) It will be the duty of the director of any mental health or mental retardation facility under the direction or control of the State Department of Mental Health to designate certain employees as security guards and campus police. The names, qualifications, and training of such campus police will be reported to the Executive Director of the State Department of Mental Health and spread upon the official minutes of the State Board of Mental Health.

All campus police, subsequent to employment but prior to performing duties as campus police, will attend and satisfactorily complete the training course required for law enforcement officers at the Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy or an equivalent facility. Campus police training may be at the expense of the Department of Mental Health and conditioned upon work repayment by the employee in accordance with educational leave regulations promulgated by the State Board of Mental Health. Failure to meet repayment obligations may result in revocation of law enforcement certification in the same manner provided in Section 37-101-291, Mississippi Code of 1972. A complete record of all law enforcement training of each employee will be maintained in each...
employee's record of employment. A master file of all such employees' training will be kept in the central office of the State Department of Mental Health.

(b) All campus police will be duly constituted peace officers with powers and duties of a constable but such authority may be exercised only on the premises of institutions under the control of the State Department of Mental Health and public property immediately adjacent to such premises. Each person designated as a security guard or campus police will enter into bond * * * in the penalty amount of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00), the premium for which shall be paid by the facility employing such security guard or campus police.

(c) All security guards and campus police will exercise their authority while in performance of their duty on any of the facilities under the direction or control of the State Department of Mental Health and public property immediately adjacent to such facilities; will be required to dress in uniforms prescribed by the State Board of Mental Health; and will be authorized to carry weapons. Employees designated as campus police shall be duly sworn and vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests, and shall exercise primarily the responsibilities of the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the enforcement of the ordinances and policies of the Department of Mental Health, a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi. Employees designated as campus police shall be considered law enforcement officers within the meaning of Section 45-6-3.

SECION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.