

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 729

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 Safety Grant Program,
9 available to all eligible public school districts, to assist in
10 financing programs to provide school safety. * * *

11 (2) The school board of each school district, with the
12 assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety
13 Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school
14 safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis.

15 (3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the
16 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following
17 specific preventive services, and other additional services
18 appropriate to the most current school district school safety
19 plan:

20 (a) Metal detectors;

21 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communications
22 equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school
23 buildings, school grounds and school buses, as required under
24 subsection (5) of this section;

25 (c) Crisis management/action teams for the purpose of
26 responding to school violence;



27 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution
28 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State
29 Department of Education for faculty and staff; and

30 (e) School safety personnel.

31 (4) Each local school district in this state may * * * apply
32 annually for school safety grant funds, subject to appropriations
33 by the Legislature. School safety grants shall include a base
34 grant amount plus an additional amount per student in average
35 daily attendance in the school or school district. The base grant
36 amount and amount per student shall be determined by the State
37 Board of Education, subject to specific appropriation therefor by
38 the Legislature. In order to be eligible for such program, each
39 local school board desiring to participate shall apply to the
40 State Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of
41 the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the department,
42 and shall be required to establish a local School Safety Task
43 Force to involve members of the community in the school safety
44 effort. The State Department of Education shall determine by July
45 1 of each succeeding year which local school districts have
46 submitted approved applications for school safety grants.

47 (5) Before July 1, 2004, each local school district shall
48 install video surveillance camera equipment in every classroom and
49 on every school bus for the purpose of monitoring school
50 disciplinary problems. A school district may use school safety
51 grant funds or any other available funds for the purchase of video
52 surveillance camera equipment and monitoring equipment.

53 (6) * * * The State Department of Education shall research
54 the effectiveness of using video surveillance camera equipment in
55 the classroom and on school buses. The department shall address
56 the following issues:

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



59 (b) The effectiveness of teachers and bus drivers using
60 the cameras to present clear and convincing evidence of a
61 student's disruptive behavior to the student, the principal, the
62 superintendent and the student's parents; and

63 (c) The effectiveness of teachers using the cameras to
64 review teaching performance and receive diagnostic feedback for
65 developmental purposes.

66 (7) The State Department of Education shall report annually
67 to the Chairmen of the Education Committees in the House of
68 Representatives and Senate on the operation of the School Safety
69 Center and the School Safety Grant Program, along with any
70 recommendations for expansion or revision of the program.

71 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2003.

