

By: Representative Clark

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 481

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

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

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

8 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State
9 Department of Education * * * a School Safety Grant Program,
10 available to all eligible public school districts, to assist in
11 financing programs to provide school safety. * * *

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

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

21 (a) Metal detectors;

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

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

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

31 (e) School safety personnel.

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

48 (5) Before July 1, 2005, each local school district shall
49 install video surveillance camera equipment in every classroom and
50 on every school bus for the purpose of monitoring school
51 disciplinary problems. A school district may use school safety
52 grant funds or any other available funds for the purchase of video
53 surveillance camera equipment and monitoring equipment.

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

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

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

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

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

72 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 2004.