

By: Representatives Staples, Taylor

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1275

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL TO RECEIVE A CERTAIN NUMBER
3 OF HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION EACH YEAR; TO AMEND SECTION
4 37-3-93, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE A SCHOOL CRISIS
5 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RESPONSE TEAM TO OPERATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
6 VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CERTAIN
7 AREAS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-7-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-7-321. (1) The school board of any school district
12 within the State of Mississippi, in its discretion, may employ one
13 or more persons as security personnel and may designate such
14 persons as peace officers in or on any property operated for
15 school purposes by such board upon their taking such oath and
16 making such bond as required of a constable of the county in which
17 the school district is situated. The security personnel or
18 officer shall receive a minimum of forty (40) hours of continuing
19 education each year that is sponsored or approved by the State
20 Department of Education.

21 (2) Any person employed by a school board as a security
22 guard or school resource officer or in any other position that has
23 the powers of a peace officer must receive a minimum level of
24 basic law enforcement training, as jointly determined and
25 prescribed by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and
26 Training and the State Board of Education, within two (2) years of
27 the person's initial employment in such position. Upon the
28 failure of any person employed in such position to receive the
29 required training within the designated time, the person may not

30 exercise the powers of a peace officer in or on the property of
31 the school district.

32 (3) The school board is authorized and empowered, in its
33 discretion, and subject to the approval of the Federal
34 Communications Commission, to install and operate a noncommercial
35 radio broadcasting and transmission station for educational and
36 vocational educational purposes.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-3-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
38 amended as follows:

39 37-3-93. (1) Subject to the availability of funding
40 specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a
41 School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of
42 Education. This program is to be initiated and executed by the
43 department using only existing staff and resources. Under this
44 program, the State Department of Education shall create an office
45 making available a quick response team of personnel trained in
46 school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or
47 violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public
48 schools in Mississippi. The School Crisis Management Program
49 shall operate in accordance with the following:

50 (a) The basic response team shall consist of those
51 personnel designated by the State Superintendent of Public
52 Education, or their designees, depending on the size of the school
53 and the nature of the event.

54 (b) In order to access the services of a response team,
55 the request must be made by the local school principal or the
56 superintendent of schools, who shall make the request to the State
57 Department of Education or its contact designee.

58 (c) A response team shall enter a school to work with
59 students and faculty for a period of no more than three (3) days,
60 unless otherwise requested by the school district.

61 (d) The State Department of Education, or its designee,
62 shall operate a toll-free incoming wide area telephone service for

63 the purpose of receiving reports of suspected cases of school
64 violence and other traumatic situations impacting on students and
65 faculty in the public schools.

66 (e) The request made by a school district to access the
67 services of a response team following a school safety incident may
68 seek a review of the local school district's safety plan, and the
69 results of this evaluation may be published by the local school
70 board in a newspaper with wide circulation in the district.

71 (f) Subject to the availability of funds specifically
72 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, the expenses of the
73 quick response teams and their administrative support shall be
74 provided from state funds. The State Department of Education may
75 apply for and expend funds for the support and maintenance of this
76 program from private and other funding sources.

77 (g) The response team may operate emergency response
78 vehicles and equipment to provide technical assistance in the
79 areas of emergency operations, physical security, law enforcement,
80 behavioral science services and education administration.

81 (2) Local school districts, school superintendents and
82 principals may request and utilize the services of quick response
83 teams provided for under this section; however, this section does
84 not require school officials to request the services of quick
85 response teams.

86 (3) This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2007.

87 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
88 and after July 1, 2004.