

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Corrections

SENATE BILL NO. 2608

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 CLARIFY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING REQUIRED OF THE CORRECTION  
3 OFFICERS OF THE CORRECTIONS INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE  
4 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 47-5-54. Employees assigned to the canine unit of the  
9 department may, upon request, assist law enforcement agencies by  
10 using specially trained dogs in any matter relating to the  
11 tracking, discovery or capture of any person in the enforcement of  
12 criminal statutes pertaining to the possession, sale or use of  
13 narcotics or other dangerous drugs, or in the pursuit of suspected  
14 felons and, while so doing, shall have the status of peace  
15 officers anywhere in the state and shall have the status of law  
16 enforcement officers and peace officers as contemplated by  
17 Sections 45-6-3, 97-3-7 and 97-3-19.

18 Employees of the department while performing their officially  
19 assigned duties relating to the custody, control, transportation,  
20 recapture or arrest of any offender within the jurisdiction of the  
21 department or any offender of any jail, penitentiary, public  
22 workhouse or overnight lockup of the state or any political  
23 subdivision thereof not within the jurisdiction of the department,  
24 shall have the status of peace officers anywhere in the state in  
25 any matter relating to the custody, control, transportation or  
26 recapture of such offender, and shall have the status of law  
27 enforcement officers and peace officers as contemplated by  
28 Sections 45-6-3, 97-3-7 and 97-3-19.

29           The commissioner may appoint investigators with the  
30 Corrections Investigation Division who have been certified by the  
31 Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and who  
32 shall be empowered to investigate and enforce all applicable  
33 regulations of the department, which are related to the functions  
34 and missions of the department, and all laws of the State of  
35 Mississippi and who shall be empowered to investigate and enforce  
36 all laws of the State of Mississippi in private correctional  
37 facilities and regional county correctional facilities. These  
38 employees shall have the status of law enforcement officers and  
39 peace officers as contemplated by Sections 45-6-3, 97-3-7 and  
40 97-3-19.

41           These officers shall be under the supervision of the  
42 commissioner. These officers may perform any service of process  
43 required to be performed at any facility owned by the Department  
44 of Corrections, at any private correctional facility or at any  
45 regional county correctional facility.

46           The commissioner may promulgate rules regulating the speed of  
47 motor vehicles on roads within the grounds of any correctional  
48 facility and such restrictions may be enforced by employees of the  
49 department by citation or as otherwise prescribed by law.

50           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after its passage.