

By: Representatives Davis, Watson

To: Local and Private
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1794

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FORREST COUNTY
2 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO EMPLOY PERSONS CERTIFIED AS LAW ENFORCEMENT
3 OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING ALL VIOLATIONS OF LAW THAT
4 OCCUR ON OR WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED FEET OF ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY THE
5 HOSPITAL; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ENTER INTO INTERLOCAL
6 AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES FOR THE PROVISION
7 OF EQUIPMENT OR TRAFFIC CONTROL DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act, the following terms
10 shall have the meanings herein ascribed unless the context
11 otherwise requires:

12 (a) "Board" means the Board of Trustees of Forrest
13 County General Hospital.

14 (b) "Hospital" means Forrest County General Hospital.

15 SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees of Forrest County General
16 Hospital, in its discretion, may employ persons certified as law
17 enforcement officers by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer
18 Standards and Training under the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title
19 45, Mississippi Code of 1972. Such officers, when so employed,
20 shall be vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a
21 constable for the purpose of preventing all violations of law that
22 occur on or within five hundred (500) feet of any property owned
23 by the hospital, if the board determines that it wants such law
24 enforcement officers to exercise such powers and if reasonably
25 determined to have a possible impact on the safety of hospital
26 employees, staff, patients or visitors while on such property.
27 However, nothing in this act shall be interpreted to require
28 action by any such law enforcement officer employed by the
29 hospital with regard to any activity occurring off the boundaries

30 of hospital property, nor shall the board, any member of the
31 board, any hospital employee or any member of the hospital staff
32 be liable for any failure to act with regard to any event,
33 situation or activity occurring off the boundaries of property
34 owned by the hospital. The board may enter into interlocal
35 agreements with other law enforcement entities for the provision
36 of equipment or traffic control duties; however, the duty to
37 enforce traffic regulations and to enforce the laws of the state
38 or municipality off hospital property lies with the local police
39 or sheriff's department which may not withhold its services solely
40 because of the lack of such an agreement.

41 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
42 and after its passage.