

By: Senator(s) King

To: Universities and
Colleges; Judiciary, Division
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SENATE BILL NO. 3015
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-105-3 AND 37-29-275, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO EXPAND THE JURISDICTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
3 OFFICERS EMPLOYED AND DESIGNATED BY CERTAIN STATE UNIVERSITIES OR
4 PUBLIC COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE TO INCLUDE THE AREA WITHIN 500
5 FEET OF UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE PROPERTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-105-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-105-3. (1) The traffic officers duly appointed by the
10 president of any state institution of higher learning, or any
11 peace officer or highway patrolman of this state, are vested with
12 the powers and authority to perform all duties incident to
13 enforcing such rules and regulations as may be enacted under the
14 authority granted in Section 37-105-1, including the arrest of
15 violators.

16 (2) The peace officers duly employed by Jackson State
17 University and the University of Southern Mississippi are also
18 vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a constable
19 for the purpose of preventing all violations of law that occur
20 within five hundred (500) feet of any property owned by the
21 university, if such universities determine that they want such
22 peace officers to exercise such powers and if reasonably
23 determined to have a possible impact on the safety of students,
24 faculty or staff of the university while on said property.
25 Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be
26 interpreted to require action by any such peace officer appointed
27 by such universities to events occurring outside the boundaries of
28 university property, nor shall any such university or its

29 employees be liable for any failure to act to any event occurring
30 outside the boundaries of property owned by the university.
31 Jackson State University and the University of Southern
32 Mississippi may enter into an interlocal agreement with other law
33 enforcement entities for the provision of equipment or traffic
34 control duties, however, the duty to enforce traffic regulations
35 and to enforce the laws of the state or municipality off of
36 university property lies with the local police or sheriff's
37 department which cannot withhold its services solely because of
38 the lack of such an agreement.

39 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-29-275, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
40 amended as follows:

41 37-29-275. Any act, which, if committed within the limits of
42 a city, town or village, or in any public place, would be a
43 violation of the general laws of this state, shall be criminal and
44 punishable if done on the campus, grounds or roads of any of the
45 state-supported junior colleges. The peace officers duly
46 appointed by the board of trustees of state-supported community or
47 junior colleges or officers of private security firms licensed by
48 the State of Mississippi contracted by the boards of trustees of
49 state supported community/junior colleges are vested with the
50 powers and subjected to the duties of a constable for the purpose
51 of preventing and punishing all violations of law on
52 state-supported junior college grounds and for preserving order
53 and decorum thereon. Peace officers appointed by the boards of
54 trustees or officers of private security firms licensed by the
55 State of Mississippi contracted by the boards of trustees shall
56 have authority to bear arms in order to carry out their law
57 enforcement responsibilities if such officers have been certified
58 according to the minimum standards established by the Board on Law
59 Enforcement Officer Standards and Training. The peace officers
60 duly appointed by the boards of trustees of public
61 community/junior colleges are also vested with the powers and

62 subjected to the duties of a constable for the purpose of
63 preventing all violations of law that occur within five hundred
64 (500) feet of any property owned by the college, if reasonably
65 determined to have a possible impact on the safety of students,
66 faculty or staff of the college while on said property. Provided,
67 however, that nothing in this section shall be interpreted to
68 require action by any such peace officer appointed by a college to
69 events occurring outside the boundaries of college property, nor
70 shall any such college or its employees be liable for any failure
71 to act to any event occurring outside the boundaries of property
72 owned by the college. If a law enforcement officer is duly
73 appointed to be a peace officer by a college under this section,
74 the board of trustees of the public community/junior college may
75 enter into an interlocal agreement with other law enforcement
76 entities for the provision of equipment or traffic control duties,
77 however, the duty to enforce traffic regulations and to enforce
78 the laws of the state or municipality off of college property lies
79 with the local police or sheriff's department which cannot
80 withhold its services solely because of the lack of such an
81 agreement.

82 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after July 1, 2007.