

By: Representatives Mettetal, Scott,  
Faulkner

To: Universities and  
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 661  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-105-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE A UNIVERSITY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ENFORCE  
3 THE LAWS OF THE STATE ON PROPERTY THAT IS WITHIN 500 FEET OF ANY  
4 PROPERTY OWNED BY THE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 37-105-3. (1) The traffic officers duly appointed by the  
9 president of any state institution of higher learning, or any  
10 peace officer or highway patrolman of this state, are vested with  
11 the powers and authority to perform all duties incident to  
12 enforcing such rules and regulations as may be enacted under the  
13 authority granted in Section 37-105-1, including the arrest of  
14 violators.

15 (2) The peace officers duly \* \* \* appointed by \* \* \* the  
16 president of any state institution of higher learning are also  
17 vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a constable  
18 for the purpose of preventing all violations of law that occur  
19 within five hundred (500) feet of any property owned by the



20 university, if such universities determine that they want such  
21 peace officers to exercise such powers and if reasonably  
22 determined to have a possible impact on the safety of students,  
23 faculty or staff of the university while on said property. If a  
24 university determines that it wants such peace officers to  
25 exercise such powers, the university may enter into an interlocal  
26 agreement with other law enforcement entities specifying the  
27 individual and joint duties to be exercised on property within the  
28 peace officers' jurisdiction. Provided, however, that nothing in  
29 this section shall be interpreted to require action by any such  
30 peace officer appointed by such universities to events occurring  
31 outside the boundaries of university property, nor shall any such  
32 university or its employees be liable for any failure to act to  
33 any event occurring outside the boundaries of property owned by  
34 the university.

35       \* \* \* With approval from the Board of Trustees of State  
36 Institutions of Higher Learning, the university may enter into an  
37 interlocal agreement with other law enforcement entities for the  
38 provision of equipment or traffic control duties, however, the  
39 duty to enforce traffic regulations and to enforce the laws of the  
40 state or municipality off of university property lies with the  
41 local police or sheriff's department which cannot withhold its  
42 services solely because of the lack of such an agreement.

43       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
44 and after July 1, 2015.

