MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Representatives Mettetal, Scott, Faulkner

To: Universities and Colleges

H. B. No. 661

HOUSE BILL NO. 661
(As Sent to Governor)

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

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

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

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

(2) The peace officers duly appointed by the president of any state institution of higher learning are also vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a constable for the purpose of preventing all violations of law that occur within five hundred (500) feet of any property owned by the
university, if such universities determine that they want such peace officers to exercise such powers and if reasonably determined to have a possible impact on the safety of students, faculty or staff of the university while on said property. If a university determines that it wants such peace officers to exercise such powers, the university may enter into an interlocal agreement with other law enforcement entities specifying the individual and joint duties to be exercised on property within the peace officers' jurisdiction. Provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be interpreted to require action by any such peace officer appointed by such universities to events occurring outside the boundaries of university property, nor shall any such university or its employees be liable for any failure to act to any event occurring outside the boundaries of property owned by the university.

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

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