

By: Representative Banks

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 605

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-323, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND
3 THEIR SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO PREVENT AND INVESTIGATE
4 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND VIOLATION OF LAW ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IN
5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHEREIN SUCH AGENCIES' POLICE POWER JURISDICTION
6 LIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-7-323, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-7-323. Any act which, if committed within the limits of a
11 city, town or village, or in any public place, would be a
12 violation of the general laws of this state, shall be criminal and
13 punishable if done on the campus, grounds or roads of any of the
14 public schools of this state. The * * * municipal or county law
15 enforcement agency and its sworn law enforcement officers * * *
16 authorized with police powers in the jurisdiction in which any
17 school district is located are vested with the powers and
18 subjected to the duties of a constable for the purpose of
19 preventing and investigating all violations of law on school
20 property within the district, and for preserving order and decorum



21 thereon. The * * * municipal or county law enforcement agency and
22 its sworn law enforcement officers * * * authorized with police
23 powers in the jurisdiction in which any school district is located
24 are also vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a
25 constable for the purpose of preventing and investigating all
26 violations of law that occur within five hundred (500) feet of any
27 property owned by the school district, if reasonably determined to
28 have a possible impact on the safety of students, faculty or staff
29 of the school district while on said property. * * *
30 However, * * * nothing in this section shall be interpreted to
31 require * * * any such school district or its employees be liable
32 for any failure to act to any event occurring outside the
33 boundaries of property owned by the school district.

34 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
35 and after July 1, 2018.

