

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2027

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-83, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE STATE FUNDING OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS BY THE STATE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UNDER THE SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM; AND  
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-83, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 37-3-83. (1) There is established within the State  
9 Department of Education, using only existing staff and resources,  
10 a School Safety Grant Program, available to all eligible public  
11 school districts, to assist in financing programs to provide  
12 school safety. However, no monies from the Temporary Assistance  
13 for Needy Families grant may be used for the School Safety Grant  
14 Program.

15 (2) The school board of each school district, with the  
16 assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety  
17 Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school  
18 safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis.



19 (3) Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the  
20 School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following  
21 specific preventive services, and other additional services  
22 appropriate to the most current school district school safety  
23 plan:

24 (a) Metal detectors;

25 (b) Video surveillance cameras, communications  
26 equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school  
27 buildings, school grounds and school buses;

28 (c) Crisis management/action teams responding to school  
29 violence;

30 (d) Violence prevention training, conflict resolution  
31 training, and other appropriate training designated by the State  
32 Department of Education for faculty and staff; \* \* \*

33 (e) School safety personnel \* \* \*; and

34 (f) School Resource Officers (SRO) under the provisions  
35 of subsection (4).

36 (4) (a) For purposes of this subsection (4), "School  
37 Resource Officers" shall mean sworn law enforcement officers  
38 responsible for safety and crime prevention in schools, who are  
39 employed by a local police department or sheriff's department and  
40 assigned to local school administrators to create a safer  
41 environment for both students and staff. School Resource Officers  
42 have the power to make arrests, respond to calls for service and  
43 document incidents, and may have additional duties, including



44 mentoring and conducting presentations on youth-related issues.  
45 School Resource Officers shall have at least forty (40) hours of  
46 specialized training in school policing before being assigned by  
47 the local law enforcement agency.

48 (b) Each local school district of this state may  
49 annually apply for school safety grant funds to reimburse the  
50 local law enforcement agency for the employment and training of  
51 School Resource Officers, subject to appropriation therefor by the  
52 Legislature. Grant funds for School Resource Officers shall be  
53 based upon an amount equal to Forty Dollars (\$40.00) per student  
54 in average daily attendance in K-Grade 12 in the school or school  
55 district. In order to be eligible for such program, each local  
56 school board desiring to participate shall apply to the State  
57 Department of Education by May 31 before the beginning of the  
58 applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the department. The  
59 State Department of Education shall determine by July 1 of each  
60 succeeding year which local school districts have submitted  
61 approved applications for School Resource Officer funding.

62 ( \* \* \*5) Each local school district of this state may  
63 annually apply for school safety grant funds subject to  
64 appropriations by the Legislature. School safety grants shall  
65 include a base grant amount plus an additional amount per student  
66 in average daily attendance in the school or school district. The  
67 base grant amount and amount per student shall be determined by  
68 the State Board of Education, subject to specific appropriation



69 therefor by the Legislature. In order to be eligible for such  
70 program, each local school board desiring to participate shall  
71 apply to the State Department of Education by May 31 before the  
72 beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the  
73 department, and shall be required to establish a local School  
74 Safety Task Force to involve members of the community in the  
75 school safety effort. The State Department of Education shall  
76 determine by July 1 of each succeeding year which local school  
77 districts have submitted approved applications for school safety  
78 grants.

79 ( \* \* \*6) As part of the School Safety Grant Program, the  
80 State Department of Education may conduct a pilot program to  
81 research the feasibility of using video camera equipment in the  
82 classroom to address the following:

83 (a) Determine if video cameras in the classroom reduce  
84 student disciplinary problems;

85 (b) Enable teachers to present clear and convincing  
86 evidence of a student's disruptive behavior to the student, the  
87 principal, the superintendent and the student's parents; and

88 (c) Enable teachers to review teaching performance and  
89 receive diagnostic feedback for developmental purposes.

90 ( \* \* \*7) Any local school district may use  
91 audio/visual-monitoring equipment in classrooms, hallways,  
92 buildings, grounds and buses for the purpose of monitoring school  
93 disciplinary problems.



94 ( \* \* \*8) As a component of the comprehensive local school  
95 district school safety plan required under subsection (2) of this  
96 section, the school board of a school district may adopt and  
97 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children, to be  
98 known as "Erin's Law Awareness." Any policy adopted under this  
99 subsection may include or address, but need not be limited to, the  
100 following:

101 (a) Methods for increasing teacher, student and  
102 parental awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children,  
103 including knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a  
104 child may be a victim of sexual abuse;

105 (b) Educational information for parents or guardians,  
106 which may be included in the school handbook, on the warning signs  
107 of a child being abused, along with any needed assistance,  
108 referral or resource information;

109 (c) Training for school personnel on child sexual  
110 abuse;

111 (d) Age-appropriate curriculum for students in  
112 prekindergarten through fifth grade;

113 (e) Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual  
114 abuse should take to obtain assistance and intervention;

115 (f) Counseling and resources available for students  
116 affected by sexual abuse; and

117 (g) Emotional and educational support for a child who  
118 has been abused to enable the child to be successful in school.



119           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
120 and after July 1, 2019.

