

By: Representative Crawford

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 631

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS TO COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE  
3 LEGAL TRAINING FOR PURPOSES OF IDEA AND SECTION 504 OF THE  
4 REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 TO UNDERSTAND THE LEGAL RIGHTS AND  
5 PROVIDE PROPER INTERACTION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN  
6 WITH DISABILITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-13-107. (1) Every school attendance officer shall be  
11 required annually to attend and complete a comprehensive course of  
12 training and education which is provided or approved by the Office  
13 of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement of the State  
14 Department of Education. Additionally, every school attendance  
15 officer shall be required to attend and complete a comprehensive  
16 legal training for the Individuals with Disabilities in Education  
17 Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,  
18 which shall be sponsored by the Office of Special Education of the  
19 Mississippi Department of Education. This training shall enable  
20 school attendance officers to understand the legal rights of



21 children with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 of the  
22 Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This training shall also educate  
23 school attendance officers of the proper policies, procedures and  
24 requirements for reporting a child with a potential disability to  
25 the school district so that the district can properly locate,  
26 identify and possibly evaluate that child in compliance with its  
27 legal duty of child find based on federal and state IDEA  
28 regulations. Attendance shall be required beginning with the  
29 first training seminar conducted after the school attendance  
30 officer is employed as a school attendance officer.

31 (2) The Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement  
32 shall provide or approve a course of training and education for  
33 school attendance officers of the state. The course shall consist  
34 of at least twelve (12) hours of training per year. The content  
35 of the course of training and when and where it is to be conducted  
36 shall be approved by the office. A certificate of completion  
37 shall be furnished by the State Department of Education to those  
38 school attendance officers who complete the course. Each  
39 certificate shall be made a permanent record of the school  
40 attendance officer supervisor's office where the school attendance  
41 officer is employed.

42 (3) Upon the failure of any person employed as a school  
43 attendance officer to receive the certificate of completion from  
44 the State Department of Education within the first year of his  
45 employment, the person shall not be allowed to carry out any of



46 the duties of a school attendance officer and shall not be  
47 entitled to compensation for the period of time during which the  
48 certificate has not been obtained.

49         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
50 and after July 1, 2022.

