

By: Representatives McKnight, Karriem

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1239

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL BOARD AS A SECURITY
 3 GUARD OR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OR IN ANY OTHER POSITION THAT HAS
 4 THE POWERS OF A PEACE OFFICER TO HAVE RECEIVED THE MINIMUM LEVEL
 5 OF BASIC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING REQUIRED BEFORE THE PERSON MAY
 6 EXERCISE THE POWERS OF A PEACE OFFICER IN OR ON THE PROPERTY OF
 7 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-7-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 10 amended as follows:

11 37-7-321. (1) The school board of any school district
 12 within the State of Mississippi, in its discretion, may employ one
 13 or more persons as security personnel and may designate such
 14 persons as peace officers in or on any property operated for
 15 school purposes by such board upon their taking such oath and
 16 making such bond as required of a constable of the county in which
 17 the school district is situated.

18 (2) Any person employed by a school board as a security
 19 guard or school resource officer or in any other position that has
 20 the powers of a peace officer must receive a minimum level of



21 basic law enforcement training, as jointly determined and
22 prescribed by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and
23 Training and the State Board of Education * * *. * * * Until
24 the * * * person employed in such position * * * receives the
25 required training * * *, the person may not exercise the powers of
26 a peace officer in or on the property of the school district.

27 (3) The school board is authorized and empowered, in its
28 discretion, and subject to the approval of the Federal
29 Communications Commission, to install and operate a noncommercial
30 radio broadcasting and transmission station for educational and
31 vocational educational purposes.

32 (4) If a law enforcement officer is duly appointed to be a
33 peace officer by a school district under this section, the local
34 school board may enter into an interlocal agreement with other law
35 enforcement entities for the provision of equipment or traffic
36 control duties, however, the duty to enforce traffic regulations
37 and to enforce the laws of the state or municipality off of school
38 property lies with the local police or sheriff's department which
39 cannot withhold its services solely because of the lack of such an
40 agreement.

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

