

By: Representative Sanford

To: Judiciary B;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 247

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE BULLETPROOF VESTS REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM
 2 TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR LOCAL
 3 LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO APPLY FOR MONIES NECESSARY FOR THE
 4 MATCH REQUIREMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE VEST PARTNERSHIP
 5 GRANT ACT OF 1998; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY
 6 TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE BULLETPROOF VESTS REVOLVING FUND; TO
 7 SPECIFY THE PURPOSE OF THE BULLETPROOF VEST REVOLVING FUND; TO
 8 ESTABLISH THE SCHEDULE TO BE ADHERED TO BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
 9 AGENCIES WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDS BASED ON POPULATION; TO PRESCRIBE
 10 QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY OF FUNDS; TO AUTHORIZE THE
 11 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE ANY RULES AND
 12 REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BULLETPROOF VESTS
 13 REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Bulletproof Vests
 16 Revolving Fund Program to be administered by the Department of
 17 Public Safety for the purpose of providing reimbursements to
 18 eligible local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of
 19 bulletproof vests as the fifty percent (50%) federal match
 20 requirement of the Department of Justice's Patrick Leahy Federal
 21 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998.

22 (2) There is created a special fund in the State Treasury
 23 designated as the Bulletproof Vests Revolving Fund which shall



24 consist of monies annually appropriated in the amount of Two
25 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) by the Mississippi
26 Legislature and any other monies deposited to the credit of the
27 fund by any other public or private entities. The revolving fund
28 must be maintained in perpetuity for the purposes established in
29 this section. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end
30 of a fiscal year may not lapse into the State General Fund, and
31 any interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to
32 the credit of the fund. Monies in the fund may not be used or
33 expended for any purpose except as authorized under this section.

34 (3) The purpose of the Bulletproof Vests Revolving Fund
35 Program is to provide reimbursement for:

36 (a) The replacement of any bulletproof vest which was
37 purchased on or after July 1, 2000, and is older than five (5)
38 years from the date of the original purchase;

39 (b) The purchase of a bulletproof vest for an
40 individual who had not been issued a bulletproof vest previously
41 by the purchasing law enforcement jurisdiction;

42 (c) Officers in receipt of a vest who are classified as
43 full- or part-time sworn law enforcement personnel of state or
44 local police departments, and who have graduated from an
45 accredited law enforcement officers training program recognized by
46 the Department of Public Safety. Certain personnel of other
47 agencies within the Department of Public Safety, as determined by
48 the Commissioner of Public Safety, may be eligible;



49 (d) The purchase of vests that are certified as having
50 an Armor Protection Level II and above;

51 (e) The purchase of vests required to be certified by
52 the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and on the latest NIJ
53 standards list of American-made vests;

54 (f) Vests purchased in accordance with the provisions
55 of Chapter 7, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972, and the
56 applicant agency's policies and procedures regarding procurement
57 purchases; and

58 (g) Vests that shall remain the property of the
59 purchasing local law enforcement agency.

60 (4) (a) Local law enforcement agencies may apply for
61 reimbursement grants from the program fund according to the
62 following schedule:

63 (i) For fiscal year 2024 and every third fiscal
64 year thereafter, departments that serve populations less than
65 fifteen thousand (15,000) may apply;

66 (ii) For fiscal year 2025 and every third fiscal
67 year thereafter, departments that serve populations less than
68 fifty thousand (50,000) but not less than fifteen thousand
69 (15,000) may apply; and

70 (iii) For fiscal year 2026 and every third fiscal
71 year thereafter, departments that serve populations greater than
72 fifty thousand (50,000) may apply.



73 (b) As annual state funding is limited, reimbursement
74 under the Bulletproof Vests Revolving Fund Program is available on
75 a first-come, first-served basis.

76 (5) (a) To qualify for receipt of funds under this act,
77 each local law enforcement submitting application for matching
78 funds shall:

79 (i) Have first made application for the first
80 fifty percent (50%) of reimbursement costs through the Patrick
81 Leahy Federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program established by
82 the United States Department of Justice to assist in the purchase
83 of bulletproof vests;

84 (ii) Verify that the model type of any bulletproof
85 vest purchased meets the National Institute of Justice
86 requirements for bullet-resistant body armor in effect at the time
87 of the purchase; and

88 (iii) Submit any documentation required by the
89 Commissioner of Public Safety to evidence proof of the federal
90 approval or proof of payment of the federal reimbursement.

91 (b) Any such costs that are not reimbursed through the
92 receipt of funds from the federal grant program shall be awarded
93 to an eligible recipient.

94 (6) The Department of Public Education shall promulgate such
95 rules and regulations as may be necessary for participation in the
96 Bulletproof Vests Revolving Fund Program by a local law
97 enforcement agency.



98 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
99 and after July 1, 2023.

