

By: Representative Crawford

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 295

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, 2023.

