

By: Representative Darnell

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 548

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 45-6-7 AND 45-6-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
 2 OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER STANDARDS  
 3 AND TRAINING TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE  
 4 CERTIFICATION OF K-9 LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAMS IN THE STATE OF  
 5 MISSISSIPPI; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 45-6-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 6 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED  
 7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-6-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 10 amended as follows:

11 45-6-7. In addition to the powers conferred upon the board  
 12 elsewhere in this chapter, the board shall have power to:

13 (a) Promulgate rules and regulations for the  
 14 administration of this chapter, including the authority to require  
 15 the submission of reports and information by law enforcement  
 16 agencies of the state and its political subdivisions.

17 (b) Establish minimum educational and training  
 18 standards for admission to employment or appointment as a law  
 19 enforcement officer or a part-time law enforcement officer: (i)  
 20 in a permanent position; and (ii) in a probationary status. The



21 minimum educational and training standards for any law enforcement  
22 officer assigned to field or investigative duties shall include at  
23 least two (2) hours of training related to handling complaints of  
24 human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children  
25 as defined in Section 43-21-105, communicating with such victims,  
26 and requiring the officer to contact the Department of Child  
27 Protection Services when human trafficking or commercial sexual  
28 exploitation is suspected.

29 (c) Certify persons as being qualified under the  
30 provisions of this chapter to be law enforcement officers or  
31 part-time law enforcement officers.

32 (d) Revoke certification for cause and in the manner  
33 provided in this chapter. The board is authorized to subpoena  
34 documents regarding revocations. The board shall maintain a  
35 current list of all persons certified under this chapter who have  
36 been placed on probation, suspended, subjected to revocation of  
37 certification, or any combination of these.

38 (e) Establish minimum curriculum requirements for basic  
39 and advanced courses and programs for schools operated by or for  
40 the state or any political subdivision thereof for the specific  
41 purpose of training police and other law enforcement officers,  
42 both full- and part-time, which shall include a minimum of two (2)  
43 hours of training in a course or courses related to the  
44 identification of and support for victims of human trafficking and  
45 commercial sexual exploitation.



46 (f) Consult and cooperate with counties,  
47 municipalities, state agencies, other governmental agencies, and  
48 with universities, colleges, community and junior colleges and  
49 other institutions concerning the development of training schools,  
50 programs or courses of instruction for personnel defined in this  
51 chapter.

52 (g) Make recommendations concerning any matter within  
53 its purview pursuant to this chapter.

54 (h) Make such inspection and evaluation as may be  
55 necessary to determine if governmental units are complying with  
56 the provisions of this chapter.

57 (i) Approve law enforcement officer training schools  
58 for operation by or for the state or any political subdivision  
59 thereof for the specific purpose of training personnel defined in  
60 this chapter.

61 (j) Upon the request of agencies employing personnel  
62 defined in this chapter, conduct surveys or aid municipalities and  
63 counties to conduct surveys through qualified public or private  
64 agencies and assist in the implementation of any recommendations  
65 resulting from such surveys.

66 (k) Upon request of agencies within the purview of this  
67 chapter, conduct general and specific management surveys and  
68 studies of the operations of the requesting agencies at no cost to  
69 those agencies. The role of the board under this subsection shall  
70 be that of management consultant.



71           (1) Adopt and amend regulations consistent with law,  
72 for its internal management and control of board programs.

73           (m) Enter into contracts or do such things as may be  
74 necessary and incidental to the administration of this chapter.

75           (n) Establish jointly with the State Board of Education  
76 the minimum level of basic law enforcement training required of  
77 persons employed by school districts as school security guards, or  
78 school resource officers or in other positions that have the  
79 powers of a peace officer.

80           (o) Promulgate rules and regulations to require the  
81 certification of K-9 law enforcement teams in the State of  
82 Mississippi.

83           **SECTION 2.** Section 45-6-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
84 amended as follows:

85           45-6-19. (1) The chief of police of any municipality in the  
86 State of Mississippi is required to annually complete twenty (20)  
87 hours of executive level continuing education courses which are  
88 approved by the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officers  
89 Standards and Training. Any new chief of police having never  
90 previously served in that capacity, is required to complete forty  
91 (40) hours of executive level continuing education courses for his  
92 first year of service. Such education courses may be provided by  
93 an accredited law enforcement academy or by the Mississippi  
94 Association of Chiefs of Police.



95           (2) (a) Any police officer of any municipality in the State  
96 of Mississippi is required to annually complete a specified number  
97 of hours, as stated in this subsection, of continuing education  
98 courses which are approved by the Mississippi Board on Law  
99 Enforcement Officers Standards and Training. The following number  
100 of hours of continuing education courses is required for municipal  
101 police officers based upon the number of years following July 1,  
102 2004:

- 103           0-2 years after July 1, 2004 .....8 hours of annual training
- 104           3-4 years after July 1, 2004 .....16 hours of annual training
- 105           5 or more years after July 1, 2004..24 hours of annual training

106 Such education courses may be provided by an accredited law  
107 enforcement academy or by the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of  
108 Police.

109           (b) Any law enforcement officer employed by the  
110 Department of Public Safety, a municipal police department or  
111 county's sheriff's office in the State of Mississippi who is a  
112 member of a K-9 law enforcement team is required to annually  
113 complete a specified number of continuing education course hours,  
114 as determined and approved by the board, which are in accordance  
115 with standards prescribed by the United States Police Canine  
116 Association, the National Narcotics Dog Association or the North  
117 American Police Work Dog Association.

118           (3) The Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officers  
119 Standards and Training shall reimburse each municipality for the



120 expense incurred for chiefs of police and municipal police  
121 officers in attendance at approved training programs as required  
122 by this section.

123 (4) Any chief of police or municipal police officer who  
124 fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be  
125 subject to having his certification as a chief of police or  
126 municipal police officer revoked by the Mississippi Board on Law  
127 Enforcement Officers Standards and Training, in accordance with  
128 Section 45-6-11.

129 (5) The Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officers  
130 Standards and Training is authorized to institute and promulgate  
131 all rules necessary for considering the revocation of any  
132 municipal chief of police or municipal police officer who does not  
133 comply with the provisions of this section, and may grant, for  
134 sufficient cause shown, an extension of time in which compliance  
135 with the provisions of this section may be made.

136 (6) Any chief of police or municipal police officer who is  
137 aggrieved by any order or ruling made under the provisions of this  
138 section has the same rights and procedure of appeal as from any  
139 other order or ruling of the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement  
140 Officers Standards and Training.

141 **SECTION 3.** Section 45-6-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
142 brought forward as follows:



143 45-6-13. (1) The board shall establish, provide or maintain  
144 law enforcement training programs through such agencies and  
145 institutions as the board may deem appropriate.

146 (2) The board shall authorize, but only from such funds  
147 authorized and appropriated by the Legislature, the reimbursement  
148 to each political subdivision and to state agencies of at least  
149 fifty percent (50%) of the allowable salary and allowable tuition,  
150 living and travel expense incurred by law enforcement officers in  
151 attendance at approved training programs, provided said political  
152 subdivisions and state agencies do in fact adhere to the selection  
153 and training standards established by the board. The board shall  
154 authorize, but only from such funds authorized and appropriated by  
155 the Legislature, the direct funding of a part-time law enforcement  
156 officer training program. The board shall require the payment of  
157 a reasonable tuition fee to aid in funding the costs of  
158 administering the part-time law enforcement officer training  
159 program.

160 (3) The board is authorized to expend funds for the purpose  
161 of providing a professional library and training aids that will be  
162 available to state agencies and political subdivisions.

163 (4) If any full- or part-time law enforcement officer in  
164 this state who is employed by a municipality, county or other  
165 governmental entity shall, within three (3) years after the date  
166 of his employment, resign from, or be terminated from, employment  
167 by such entity and immediately become employed by another



168 governmental entity in a law enforcement capacity, then the  
169 governmental entity by which the resigned or terminated officer is  
170 employed shall reimburse the governmental entity from which the  
171 officer resigned or was terminated a proportionate share of the  
172 officer's law enforcement training expenses which were incurred by  
173 such entity, if any.

174 (5) The Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officers  
175 Standards and Training shall reimburse each county for the  
176 expenses incurred by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs for attendance  
177 at approved training programs as provided in Section 25-3-25.

178 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
179 and after July 1, 2023.

