

By: Representative Arnold

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1234

1 AN ACT TO CREATE "THE MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERACTION
2 COURSE ACT"; TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE
3 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, THE MISSISSIPPI SHERIFFS'
4 ASSOCIATION, THE MISSISSIPPI POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION AND THE
5 MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO
6 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT ESTABLISHES EACH AGENCY'S
7 RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEVELOPING INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING
8 CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL MODULES, ON PROPER INTERACTION WITH
9 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DURING TRAFFIC STOPS AND OTHER IN-PERSON
10 ENCOUNTERS; TO REQUIRE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS
11 PROVIDE INSTRUCTION IN ONE OR MORE COURSES TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 9
12 THROUGH GRADE 12 ON PROPER INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT
13 OFFICERS DURING TRAFFIC STOPS AND OTHER IN-PERSON ENCOUNTERS, AT
14 LEAST ONCE BEFORE GRADUATION; TO PRESCRIBE THE MINIMUM COMPONENTS
15 OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE; TO PERMIT
16 SCHOOL DISTRICTS OR CHARTER SCHOOLS TO TAILOR THE INSTRUCTION
17 DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION AS APPROPRIATE FOR THE DISTRICT'S OR
18 CHARTER SCHOOL'S COMMUNITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURSE SHALL BE
19 OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 9 BEGINNING WITH THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL
20 YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

22 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as "The
23 Mississippi Law Enforcement Interaction Course Act."

24 **SECTION 2.** (1) As used in this act, the following terms
25 shall have the meanings ascribed in this section, unless context
26 clearly requires otherwise:



27 (a) "Associations" means the Mississippi Sheriffs'
28 Association and the Mississippi Police Benevolent Association.

29 (b) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

30 (c) "Commission" means the Mississippi Law Enforcement
31 Accreditation Commission.

32 (d) "Department" means the State Department of
33 Education.

34 (2) The board, the Mississippi Department of Public Safety,
35 Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, Mississippi Police Benevolent
36 Association and the commission shall enter into a memorandum of
37 understanding that establishes each agency's and associations'
38 respective responsibilities in developing instruction, including
39 curriculum and instructional modules, on proper interaction with
40 law enforcement officers during traffic stops and other in-person
41 encounters. The instruction must include information regarding:

42 (a) The role of law enforcement and the duties and
43 responsibilities of law enforcement officers;

44 (b) A person's rights concerning interactions with law
45 enforcement officers;

46 (c) Proper behavior for civilians and law enforcement
47 officers during interactions;

48 (d) Laws regarding questioning and detention by law
49 enforcement officers, including any law requiring a person to
50 present proof of identity to a law enforcement officer, and the



51 consequences for a person's or officer's failure to comply with
52 those laws; and

53 (e) How and where to file a complaint against or a
54 compliment on behalf of a law enforcement officer.

55 (3) In developing the instruction under this section, the
56 board, Department of Public Safety, associations, the commission
57 and the department may consult with any interested party,
58 including a volunteer work group convened for the purpose of
59 making recommendations regarding the instruction.

60 (4) Before finalizing any instruction under this section,
61 the board, the Department of Public Safety, the associations and
62 the commission shall provide a reasonable period for public
63 comment.

64 (5) Subject to rules adopted by the board, a school district
65 or charter school may tailor the instruction developed under this
66 section as appropriate for the district's or charter school's
67 community. In tailoring the instruction, the district or charter
68 school shall solicit input from local law enforcement agencies and
69 the community.

70 **SECTION 3.** (1) A school district or charter school shall
71 provide instruction in one or more courses to students in Grade 9
72 through Grade 12 on proper interaction with law enforcement
73 officers during traffic stops and other in-person encounters. The
74 required instruction:

75 (a) May be provided as a part of any course or courses;



76 (b) Must be provided to each student at least once
77 before graduation from high school; and

78 (c) May be taught by a representative of the Department
79 of Public Safety, the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, the
80 Mississippi Police Benevolent Association, the Mississippi Law
81 Enforcement Accreditation Commission, or a local law enforcement
82 officer or school resource officer who has successfully completed
83 the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy or
84 other state recognized training program.

85 (2) The instruction must include all of the following
86 information:

87 (a) The role of law enforcement and the duties and
88 responsibilities of law enforcement officers;

89 (b) A person's rights concerning interactions with law
90 enforcement officers;

91 (c) Proper behavior for civilians and law enforcement
92 officers during interactions;

93 (d) Laws regarding questioning and detention by law
94 enforcement officers, including any law requiring a person to
95 present proof of identity to a law enforcement officer, and the
96 consequences for a person's or officer's failure to comply with
97 those laws; and

98 (e) How and where to file a complaint against or a
99 compliment on behalf of a law enforcement officer.



100 (3) A school district or charter school shall use materials
101 developed through a memorandum of understanding among the
102 Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the Mississippi Sheriffs'
103 Association, the Mississippi Police Benevolent Association,
104 Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, the State
105 Board of Education and the State Department of Education.

106 (4) A school district or charter school may tailor the
107 instruction developed under this section as appropriate for the
108 district's or charter school's community. In tailoring the
109 instruction, the district or charter school shall solicit input
110 from local law enforcement agencies and the community.

111 (5) This section applies to any student who enters Grade 9
112 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter.

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

