

By: Representatives Lamar, Anthony, Grady

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1982
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
2 SCHOOL SAFETY (MS ROSS) ACT" FOR THE PURPOSE OF AUTHORIZING THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ASSIST LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
4 AGENCIES AND SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES WITH THE COST OF EMPLOYING A
5 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) AT EACH SCHOOL CAMPUS WITHIN THE
6 JURISDICTIONS OF THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNING AUTHORITIES;
7 TO DEFINE TERMINOLOGY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ASSISTANCE OF EMPLOYING
8 SROS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND
9 SECONDARY SCHOOLS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALLOCATE A
10 PERCENTAGE OF THE COST FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF ONE SRO FOR EACH
11 SCHOOL CAMPUS; TO REQUIRE THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND/OR
12 THE SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD TO PROVIDE THE REMAINING PERCENTAGE OF
13 THE COST FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF ONE SRO FOR EACH SCHOOL CAMPUS
14 WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION OF CONTROL; TO REQUIRE LOCAL LAW
15 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES TO MAKE JOINT
16 APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE APPROVAL OF ALLOCATION OF
17 FUNDS; TO SPECIFY THE INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
18 APPLICATION; TO PRESCRIBE THE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDING THE
19 REQUIREMENT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR INTERLOCAL
20 AGREEMENT BETWEEN A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND A SCHOOL
21 GOVERNING BODY; TO AMEND SECTION 37-7-321, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
22 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; TO CREATE THE
23 MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS SCHOOL SAFETY (MS ROSS) FUND
24 AS A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES IN
25 THE SPECIAL FUND SHALL BE USED TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO LOCAL LAW
26 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES FOR THE PURPOSES
27 DESCRIBED IN THIS ACT; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF STATE GENERAL
28 OBLIGATION BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL
29 RESOURCE OFFICERS SCHOOL SAFETY (MS ROSS) FUND; AND FOR RELATED
30 PURPOSES.

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



32 **SECTION 1.** (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as
33 the "Mississippi School Resource Officers School Safety (MS ROSS)
34 Act."

35 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall
36 have the meanings ascribed herein unless context or use requires
37 otherwise:

38 (a) "Act" means the "Mississippi School Resource
39 Officers School Safety (MS ROSS) Act."

40 (b) "Applicable percentage" means:

41 (i) For the 2024 - 2025 scholastic year, thirty
42 percent (30%);

43 (ii) For the 2025 - 2026 scholastic year, forty
44 percent (40%);

45 (iii) For the 2026 - 2027 scholastic year, fifty
46 percent (50%);

47 (iv) For the 2027 - 2028 scholastic year, sixty
48 percent (60%); and

49 (v) For the 2028 - 2029 scholastic year and each
50 scholastic year thereafter, seventy percent (70%).

51 (c) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
52 Public Safety.

53 (d) "Local law enforcement agency" means the local
54 police department or county sheriff's office that has primary law
55 enforcement authority over the schools within its jurisdiction.



56 (e) "Independent school" means a nonpublic school
57 operating within the State of Mississippi that:

58 (i) Is a member of the Midsouth Association of
59 Independent Schools (MAIS) and located in the State of
60 Mississippi;

61 (ii) Is accredited by a state, regional or
62 national accrediting organization, including the State Board of
63 Education; and

64 (iii) Is not subject to the purview of authority
65 of the State Board of Education, unless such school is accredited
66 by the board.

67 (f) "Program" means the Mississippi School Resource
68 Officers School Safety (MS ROSS) program, established in and
69 administered by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

70 (g) "School governing body" means:

71 (i) The local school board of a public school
72 district;

73 (ii) The charter school governing board of a
74 charter school; and

75 (iii) The board or other governing body of an
76 accredited independent school, as such governing body is
77 prescribed in the charter, bylaws or other governing documents of
78 the independent school.

79 (h) "School resource officer" or "SRO" means a sworn
80 law enforcement officer employed by a local law enforcement agency



81 and assigned to public or private elementary or secondary school
82 campuses to provide community policing efforts to combat school
83 violence and improve student and school safety in or on the
84 property of the school campus to which he or she is assigned.

85 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is hereby established the Mississippi
86 School Resource Officers School Safety (MS ROSS) program in the
87 Mississippi Department of Public Safety to provide funding to
88 assist local law enforcement agencies in providing school resource
89 officers (SROs) to all public and private elementary and secondary
90 school campuses within the jurisdictions over which such agencies
91 have primary law enforcement authority for the purpose of
92 providing enhanced security and community policing in and around
93 all elementary and secondary schools therein.

94 (2) The MS ROSS program shall meet the following
95 requirements and standards:

96 (a) The program shall provide an incentive for law
97 enforcement agencies to build collaborative partnerships with the
98 school community and to use community policing efforts to combat
99 school violence and implement educational programs to improve
100 student and school safety;

101 (b) (i) The department shall provide the funds under
102 the authority of this act for the administration of the program to
103 provide the applicable percentage of the cost associated with the
104 employment of one (1) school resource officer (SRO) by a local law
105 enforcement agency for each school campus within the jurisdiction



106 over which the agency has primary law enforcement authority, to be
107 applied towards the SRO's salary and benefits, training, equipment
108 and other costs deemed necessary by the local law enforcement
109 agency and school governing body to enable the SRO to perform his
110 or her duties in and around elementary and secondary schools up to
111 a total salary cost of Fifty-five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00).
112 However, if the total cost associated with the employment of a SRO
113 employed under the provisions of this act exceeds Fifty-five
114 Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00) then the department shall only pay
115 the applicable percentage of the Fifty-five Thousand Dollars
116 (\$55,000.00), and any amount in excess of the applicable
117 percentage shall be borne by the local law enforcement agency or
118 school district, or combination of both; and

119 (ii) The department shall require the parties
120 making joint application for funds under paragraph (c) to commit
121 to paying the remaining percentage of the cost associated with the
122 employment of one (1) school resource officer (SRO) by a local law
123 enforcement agency for each school campus under the authority and
124 control of the school governing board that falls within the
125 jurisdiction of the local law enforcement agency, to be applied
126 towards the SRO's salary and benefits, training, equipment and
127 other costs deemed necessary by the local law enforcement agency
128 and school governing body to enable the SRO to perform his or her
129 duties in and around elementary and secondary schools;



130 (c) Local law enforcement agencies and school governing
131 bodies shall make joint application to the department for funds
132 under the authority of subsection (1) of this section for the
133 purpose of funding the employment of SROs in the amount prescribed
134 in paragraph (b) of this subsection. The joint application
135 submitted by the local law enforcement agency and school governing
136 body shall, at a minimum:

137 (i) Identify the local law enforcement agency to
138 provide the school resource officers, and the name of chief law
139 enforcement officer of the agency;

140 (ii) Identify the school governing body to be
141 served by the local law enforcement agency, and the names of the
142 president of such governing body and the superintendent or head of
143 schools under the governing body's authority and control;

144 (iii) The total number of schools, the total
145 number of school campuses and the names of all schools under the
146 schools governing body's authority and control;

147 (iv) The names of the principals of each school
148 under the schools governing body's authority and control;

149 (v) The name, address and phone number of each
150 school campus to be served a school resource officer (SRO)

151 (vi) The proposed salary of each school resource
152 officer (SRO), with the acknowledged understanding that the
153 department will only pay the applicable percentage under paragraph



154 (b) of this subsection of salaries that do not exceed Fifty-five
155 Thousand Dollars (\$55,000.00); and

156 (vii) The approximate number of school resource
157 officers (SROs) necessary for employment to accomplish the goal of
158 assigning one (1) SRO to each school campus as required by this
159 act;

160 (d) The local law enforcement agency and the
161 appropriate school governing body shall enter into a Memorandum of
162 Understanding (MOU) or an interlocal agreement, signed by the
163 chief law enforcement officer and the appropriate school
164 officials, which provides:

165 (i) Documentation of the roles and
166 responsibilities to be undertaken by the law enforcement agency
167 and the educational school partners through this collaborative
168 effort;

169 (ii) That school resource officers (SROs) will be
170 official employees of the local law enforcement agency that has
171 primary law enforcement authority over the schools within its
172 jurisdiction;

173 (iii) Which party to the MOU or interlocal
174 agreement, the local law enforcement agency or school governing
175 body, will be financially responsible for funding the match of the
176 cost associated with the employment of each school resource
177 officer (SRO) by a local law enforcement agency, if only one (1)
178 such party will bear the financial responsibility;



179 (iv) If both parties to the MOU or interlocal
180 agreement will share the financial responsibility of funding the
181 required match of the cost associated with the employment of each
182 school resource officer (SRO) by a local law enforcement agency,
183 then the MOU or interlocal agreement shall stipulate the portion
184 of the percentage of the matching funds each party shall be
185 obligated to commit for each SRO employed and assigned to school
186 campuses under the authority and control of the school governing
187 body; and

188 (v) A Narrative Addendum to document that school
189 resource officers (SROs) will be assigned to work in and around
190 public and private elementary or secondary school campuses and
191 provide supporting documentation in the following areas:

- 192 1. Problem identification and justification;
- 193 2. Community policing strategies to be used
194 by the SROs;
- 195 3. Quality and level of commitment to the
196 effort; and
- 197 4. The link to community policing; and

198 (e) Upon the employment of an individual to serve as a
199 school resource officer under the provisions of this act, the
200 employing school district, in conjunction with said school
201 resource officer, shall complete the development and/or
202 enhancement of a comprehensive school safety plan for each school
203 campus in the school district under the school resource officer's



204 enforcement authority within sixty (60) days of the approval of
205 the individual's employment by the local school governing
206 authority. Before the expiration of the sixty-day period, the
207 local school governing authority shall provide copies of the
208 comprehensive school safety plan to the local law enforcement
209 agency having primary law enforcement authority over each school
210 impacted by the school safety plan(s) within their jurisdiction,
211 and to the Department of Public Safety.

212 (3) School resource officers (SROs) may serve in a variety
213 of roles, including, but not limited to, that of a law enforcement
214 officer, safety specialist, law-related educator, problem-solver
215 and community liaison. These officers may teach programs such as
216 crime prevention, substance abuse prevention and gang resistance,
217 as well as monitor and assist troubled students through mentoring
218 programs. The SROs may also identify physical changes in the
219 environment that may reduce crime in and around school campuses,
220 as well as assist in developing school policies which address
221 criminal activity and school safety.

222 (4) All agencies receiving funds through the Mississippi
223 School Resource Officers School Safety (MS ROSS) program are
224 required to send the individuals employed as school resource
225 officers (SROs) to the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers'
226 Training Academy or a law enforcement training academy approved by
227 the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, where they shall be



228 required to participate in training through the Advanced Law
229 Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program at such academy.

230 (5) The Mississippi Department of Public Safety shall
231 promulgate rules and regulations prescribing procedures for the
232 application, expenditure requirements and the administration of
233 the Mississippi Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools
234 (MS ROSS) program established in this section, and shall make a
235 report on the implementation of the MS ROSS program with any
236 recommendations to the 2025 Regular Session of the Legislature.

237 **SECTION 4.** There is created in the State Treasury a special
238 fund, to be designated as the "Mississippi School Resource
239 Officers School Safety (MS ROSS) Fund", which shall consist of
240 funds made available by the Legislature in any manner. The fund
241 shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and
242 special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the
243 state. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a
244 fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any
245 interest earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund
246 shall be deposited into such fund. Monies in the fund shall be
247 disbursed, in the discretion of the Department of Public Safety,
248 to provide funds to local law enforcement agencies and school
249 governing bodies for the purposes described in this section.
250 The department may use an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the
251 monies in the fund, not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand



252 Dollars, for the purpose of defraying the costs of the department
253 in administering the program.

254 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-7-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
255 amended as follows:

256 37-7-321. (1) (a) The school board of any school district
257 within the State of Mississippi, in its discretion, may employ one
258 or more persons as security personnel and may designate such
259 persons as peace officers in or on any property operated for
260 school purposes by such board upon their taking such oath and
261 making such bond as required of a constable of the county in which
262 the school district is situated.

263 (b) Local law enforcement agencies having primary law
264 enforcement authority over schools within their jurisdiction, in
265 conjunction with the school boards of every school district within
266 the State of Mississippi, through a Memorandum of Understanding
267 (MOU) or interlocal agreement, signed by the law enforcement
268 executive and the appropriate school official(s), shall employ
269 individuals to serve as school resource officers (SROs), provided
270 that the MOU or interlocal agreement shall require a minimum of
271 one (1) school resource officer to be assigned each school campus
272 operating under the authority and control of the local school
273 board.

274 (2) Any person employed by a school board as a security
275 guard or school resource officer (SRO) or in any other position
276 that has the powers of a peace officer, who is not a sworn law



277 enforcement officer, must receive a minimum level of basic law
278 enforcement training, as jointly determined and prescribed by the
279 Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and the
280 State Board of Education, within two (2) years of the person's
281 initial employment in such position. * * * The failure of any
282 person employed in such position to receive the required training
283 within the designated time * * * will result in the withdrawal of
284 that person's * * * authority to exercise the powers of a peace
285 officer in or on the property of the school district.

286 (3) The school board is authorized and empowered, in its
287 discretion, and subject to the approval of the Federal
288 Communications Commission, to install and operate a noncommercial
289 radio broadcasting and transmission station for educational and
290 vocational educational purposes.

291 (4) If a law enforcement officer is duly appointed to be a
292 peace officer by a school district under this section, the local
293 school board may enter into an interlocal agreement with other law
294 enforcement entities for the provision of equipment or traffic
295 control duties, however, the duty to enforce traffic regulations
296 and to enforce the laws of the state or municipality off of school
297 property lies with the local police or sheriff's department which
298 cannot withhold its services solely because of the lack of such an
299 agreement.

300 (5) (a) During any period of the regular scholastic year or
301 extended school year programs in which academic instruction is



302 being provided to students upon the campuses of a public and
303 private elementary or secondary schools, school resource officers,
304 employed by a local law enforcement agency to provide community
305 policing efforts to combat school violence and improve student and
306 school safety, shall maintain an active and visible presence upon
307 the school campus to which he or she is assigned under the program
308 defined in Section 1 of this act. For purposes of this section,
309 "regular scholastic year" means the minimum one hundred eighty
310 (180) days which public schools are required to be kept in session
311 under Section 37-13-63 to constitute a scholastic year. "Extended
312 school year programs" means those programs authorized by law,
313 which extend beyond the one hundred eighty-day term of a regular
314 scholastic year, including summer school instruction. In the
315 performance of his or her duties, a school resource officer shall
316 report for duty on the campus of the school of assignment not
317 later than one (1) hour before the start of each school day on
318 Monday through Friday, and remain thereon for one (1) hour after
319 the conclusion of normal daily instruction. No school resource
320 officer shall be required to work on Saturday or Sunday, unless a
321 school sponsored event is hosted upon the school campus which the
322 school resource officer has been assigned, which such events shall
323 include extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

324 (b) When school is not in session (i.e. holidays,
325 summer vacation, fall breaks, declarations of emergency which
326 suspend the requirements for school attendance, etc.), the school



327 resource officer shall report to his or her immediate supervisor
328 within the local law enforcement agency of employment for further
329 assignment of duties that are directly related to activities and
330 functions of the local law enforcement agency.

331 (c) Notwithstanding a school resource officer's
332 permanent employment with the local law enforcement agency with
333 whom a local school governing authority has entered into a
334 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or an interlocal agreement for
335 the assignment of a school resource officer, the employing local
336 law enforcement agency shall not require a school resource officer
337 to leave his or her assigned post at a school during the time
338 specified for the performance of his or her duties as prescribed
339 in paragraph (a) of this subsection to perform work duties
340 directly related to activities and functions of the local law
341 enforcement agency, unless it has been determined by the chief law
342 enforcement officer of the employing agency that exigent
343 circumstances exist, which have created an emergency situation of
344 an impending catastrophic nature that requires swift action to
345 prevent imminent danger to life, substantial harm to the public
346 welfare or serious damage to property.

347 **SECTION 6.** (1) As used in this section, the following words
348 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly
349 requires otherwise:

350 (a) "Accreted value" of any bond means, as of any date
351 of computation, an amount equal to the sum of (i) the stated



352 initial value of such bond, plus (ii) the interest accrued thereon
353 from the issue date to the date of computation at the rate,
354 compounded semiannually, that is necessary to produce the
355 approximate yield to maturity shown for bonds of the same
356 maturity.

357 (b) "State" means the State of Mississippi.

358 (c) "Commission" means the State Bond Commission.

359 (2) (a) The commission, at one time, or from time to time,
360 may declare by resolution the necessity for issuance of general
361 obligation bonds of the State of Mississippi to provide funds for
362 the program authorized in Section 3 of this act. Upon the
363 adoption of a resolution by the Department of Public Safety,
364 declaring the necessity for the issuance of any part or all of the
365 general obligation bonds authorized by this subsection, the
366 department shall deliver a certified copy of its resolution or
367 resolutions to the commission. Upon receipt of such resolution,
368 the commission, in its discretion, may act as the issuing agent,
369 prescribe the form of the bonds, determine the appropriate method
370 for sale of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids or negotiate
371 the sale of the bonds, issue and sell the bonds so authorized to
372 be sold and do any and all other things necessary and advisable in
373 connection with the issuance and sale of such bonds. The total
374 amount of bonds issued under this section shall not exceed One
375 Hundred Seven Million Dollars (\$107,000,000.00). However, not
376 more than Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000.00) of such bonds



377 may be issued during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and
378 ending June 30, 2025; not more than Seventeen Million Dollars
379 (\$17,000,000.00) of such bonds may be issued during the fiscal
380 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026; not more
381 than Twenty-one Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
382 (\$21,500,000.00) of such bonds may be issued during the fiscal
383 year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027; not more
384 than Twenty-five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
385 (\$25,500,000.00) of such bonds may be issued during the fiscal
386 year beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2028; and not
387 more than Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000.00) of such bonds
388 may be issued during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, and
389 ending June 30, 2029.

390 (b) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into
391 the special fund created in Section 4 of this act shall be used to
392 pay debt service on bonds issued under this section, in accordance
393 with the proceedings authorizing issuance of such bonds.

394 (3) The principal of and interest on the bonds authorized
395 under this section shall be payable in the manner provided in this
396 subsection. Such bonds shall bear such date or dates, be in such
397 denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate or rates
398 (not to exceed the limits set forth in Section 75-17-101,
399 Mississippi Code of 1972), be payable at such place or places
400 within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature
401 absolutely at such time or times not to exceed twenty-five (25)



402 years from date of issue, be redeemable before maturity at such
403 time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall
404 bear such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in
405 such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the
406 commission.

407 (4) The bonds authorized by this section shall be signed by
408 the chairman of the commission, or by his facsimile signature, and
409 the official seal of the commission shall be affixed thereto,
410 attested by the secretary of the commission. The interest
411 coupons, if any, to be attached to such bonds may be executed by
412 the facsimile signatures of such officers. Whenever any such
413 bonds shall have been signed by the officials designated to sign
414 the bonds who were in office at the time of such signing but who
415 may have ceased to be such officers before the sale and delivery
416 of such bonds, or who may not have been in office on the date such
417 bonds may bear, the signatures of such officers upon such bonds
418 and coupons shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all
419 purposes and have the same effect as if the person so officially
420 signing such bonds had remained in office until their delivery to
421 the purchaser, or had been in office on the date such bonds may
422 bear. However, notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary,
423 such bonds may be issued as provided in the Registered Bond Act of
424 the State of Mississippi.

425 (5) All bonds and interest coupons issued under the
426 provisions of this section have all the qualities and incidents of



427 negotiable instruments under the provisions of the Uniform
428 Commercial Code, and in exercising the powers granted by this
429 section, the commission shall not be required to and need not
430 comply with the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code.

431 (6) The commission shall act as the issuing agent for the
432 bonds authorized under this section, prescribe the form of the
433 bonds, determine the appropriate method for sale of the bonds,
434 advertise for and accept bids or negotiate the sale of the bonds,
435 issue and sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees
436 and costs incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all
437 other things necessary and advisable in connection with the
438 issuance and sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and
439 empowered to pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance
440 and delivery of the bonds authorized under this section from the
441 proceeds derived from the sale of such bonds. The commission may
442 sell such bonds on sealed bids at public sale or may negotiate the
443 sale of the bonds for such price as it may determine to be for the
444 best interest of the State of Mississippi. All interest accruing
445 on such bonds so issued shall be payable semiannually or annually.

446 If such bonds are sold by sealed bids at public sale, notice
447 of the sale of any such bonds shall be published at least one
448 time, not less than ten (10) days before the date of sale, and
449 shall be so published in one or more newspapers published or
450 having a general circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi,
451 to be selected by the commission.



452 The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of
453 this section, may provide that bonds, at the option of the State
454 of Mississippi, may be called in for payment and redemption at the
455 call price named therein and accrued interest on such date or
456 dates named therein.

457 (7) The bonds issued under the provisions of this section
458 are general obligations of the State of Mississippi, and for the
459 payment thereof the full faith and credit of the State of
460 Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. If the funds appropriated by
461 the Legislature are insufficient to pay the principal of and the
462 interest on such bonds as they become due, then the deficiency
463 shall be paid by the State Treasurer from any funds in the State
464 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such bonds shall contain
465 recitals on their faces substantially covering the provisions of
466 this subsection.

467 (8) Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the provisions
468 of this section, the commission shall transfer the proceeds of any
469 such sale or sales to the special fund created in Section 4 of
470 this act. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed solely
471 upon the order of the Department of Finance and Administration
472 under such restrictions, if any, as may be contained in the
473 resolution providing for the issuance of the bonds.

474 (9) The bonds authorized under this section may be issued
475 without any other proceedings or the happening of any other
476 conditions or things other than those proceedings, conditions and



477 things which are specified or required by this section. Any
478 resolution providing for the issuance of bonds under the
479 provisions of this section shall become effective immediately upon
480 its adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be
481 adopted at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a
482 majority of its members.

483 (10) The bonds authorized under the authority of this
484 section may be validated in the Chancery Court of the First
485 Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in the manner and
486 with the force and effect provided by Chapter 13, Title 31,
487 Mississippi Code of 1972, for the validation of county, municipal,
488 school district and other bonds. The notice to taxpayers required
489 by such statutes shall be published in a newspaper published or
490 having a general circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

491 (11) Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of this
492 section or of any of the interest coupons pertaining thereto may,
493 either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other
494 proceeding, protect and enforce any and all rights granted under
495 this section, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel
496 performance of all duties required by this section to be
497 performed, in order to provide for the payment of bonds and
498 interest thereon.

499 (12) All bonds issued under the provisions of this section
500 shall be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and
501 for savings banks, trust companies and insurance companies



502 organized under the laws of the State of Mississippi, and such
503 bonds shall be legal securities which may be deposited with and
504 shall be received by all public officers and bodies of this state
505 and all municipalities and political subdivisions for the purpose
506 of securing the deposit of public funds.

507 (13) Bonds issued under the provisions of this section and
508 income therefrom shall be exempt from all taxation in the State of
509 Mississippi.

510 (14) The proceeds of the bonds issued under this section
511 shall be used solely for the purposes herein provided, including
512 the costs incident to the issuance and sale of such bonds.

513 (15) The State Treasurer is authorized, without further
514 process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance and
515 Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department of
516 Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue
517 such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due
518 the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the
519 accreted value of, all bonds issued under this section; and the
520 State Treasurer shall forward the necessary amount to the
521 designated place or places of payment of such bonds in ample time
522 to discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on the due dates
523 thereof.

524 (16) This section shall be deemed to be full and complete
525 authority for the exercise of the powers herein granted, but this



526 section shall not be deemed to repeal or to be in derogation of
527 any existing law of this state.

528 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
529 and after July 1, 2024.

