

By: Representatives Remak, Hale, Hall,  
Harris, Kinkade

To: Education;  
Appropriations A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 197

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-82, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCREASE THE GRANT AMOUNTS UNDER THE MCOPS GRANT PROGRAM FROM A  
3 MINIMUM OF UP TO \$10,000.00 TO UP TO A MINIMUM OF \$40,000.00 PER  
4 OFFICER EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A SCHOOL RESOURCE  
5 OFFICER; TO INCREASE THE REIMBURSEMENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
6 SRO REQUIREMENT TO UNDERGO THE ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT RAPID  
7 RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT  
8 OFFICERS' TRAINING ACADEMY TO UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$2,400.00; AND  
9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11       **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-82, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13       37-3-82. (1) There is hereby established the Mississippi  
14 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) grant  
15 program in the State Department of Education to provide funding,  
16 pursuant to specific appropriation by the Legislature therefor, to  
17 assist law enforcement agencies in providing additional School  
18 Resource Officers to engage in community policing in and around  
19 primary and secondary schools. The MCOPS program shall authorize  
20 the State Department of Education to make grants to increase  
21 deployment of law enforcement officers in order (a) to increase or



22 enhance community policing in this state, (b) that trained, sworn  
23 enforcement officers assigned to schools play an integral part in  
24 the development and/or enhancement of a comprehensive school  
25 safety plan, and (c) that the presence of these officers shall  
26 provide schools with a direct link to local law enforcement  
27 agencies.

28 (2) The MCOPS program shall meet the following requirements  
29 and standards:

30 (a) This program shall provide an incentive for law  
31 enforcement agencies to build collaborative partnerships with the  
32 school community and to use community policing efforts to combat  
33 school violence and implement educational programs to improve  
34 student and school safety.

35 (b) The additional School Resource Officers must devote  
36 at least seventy-five percent (75%) of their time to work in and  
37 around primary and secondary schools, in addition to the time that  
38 School Resource Officers are devoting in the absence of the MCOPS  
39 in Schools grant.

40 (c) Beginning with the \* \* \* 2025-2026 school year, the  
41 MCOPS in Schools program shall provide a minimum state  
42 contribution of up to \* \* \* Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)  
43 per officer position over the one-year grant period, to be matched  
44 from local funds on a 50/50 matching basis. Officers paid with  
45 MCOPS funds may be employed by the local law enforcement agency or  
46 by the local school district. MCOPS funds may be used to pay for



47 entry-level salaries and benefits of newly trained additional  
48 School Resource Officers and may be used to pay the salaries and  
49 benefits of School Resource Officers employed prior to July 1,  
50 2013. All jurisdictions that apply must demonstrate that they  
51 have primary law enforcement authority over the school(s)  
52 identified in their application and demonstrate their inability to  
53 implement this project without state assistance. Schools or law  
54 enforcement agencies may not reduce its overall federal, state,  
55 locally funded level of sworn officers (including other School  
56 Resource Officers or other sworn officers assigned to the schools)  
57 as a result of applying for or receiving MCOPS in Schools grant  
58 funding. MCOPS in Schools funding may be used to rehire sworn  
59 officers previously employed who have been laid off for financial  
60 reasons unrelated to the availability of the MCOPS in Schools  
61 grant, but must obtain prior written approval from the State  
62 Department of Education. MCOPS in Schools funding may be used to  
63 train school resource officers. In order to be eligible for such  
64 program, each local school board desiring to participate shall  
65 apply to the State Department of Education by May 31 before the  
66 beginning of the applicable fiscal year on forms provided by the  
67 department. The State Department of Education shall determine by  
68 July 1 of each succeeding year which local school districts have  
69 submitted approved applications for School Resource Officer  
70 funding.



(d) School Resource Officers (SROs) may serve in a variety of roles, including, but not limited to, that of a law enforcement officer/safety specialist, law-related educator, and problem-solver/community liaison. These officers may teach programs such as crime prevention, substance abuse prevention, and gang resistance as well as monitor and assist troubled students through mentoring programs. The School Resource Officer(s) may also identify physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in and around the schools, as well as assist in developing school policies which address criminal activity and school safety. The application must also include a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by the law enforcement executive and the appropriate school official(s), to document the roles and responsibilities to be undertaken by the law enforcement agency and the educational school partner(s) through this collaborative effort. The application must also include a Narrative Addendum to document that the School Resource Officer(s) will be assigned to work in and around primary or secondary schools and provide supporting documentation in the following areas: problem identification and justification, community policing strategies to be used by the officers, quality and level of commitment to the effort, and the link to community policing.

93 (e) All agencies receiving awards through the MCOPS in  
94 Schools program are required to send the School Resource Officer  
95 position(s) funded by this grant, to the Mississippi Law

96 Enforcement Officers' Training Academy where they shall be  
97 required to participate in training through the Advanced Law  
98 Enforcement Rapid Response Training Program at the academy, with  
99 the cost to be defrayed from the MCOPS program. The MCOPS Office  
100 of the State Department of Education will reimburse grantees for  
101 training, per diem, travel, and lodging costs for attendance of  
102 required participants up to a maximum of \* \* \* Two Thousand Four  
103 Hundred Dollars (\$2,400.00) per person attending. Applicants  
104 receiving an MCOPS in Schools grant, will receive additional  
105 training information following notification of the grant award.  
106 The MCOPS in Schools training requirement must be completed prior  
107 to the end of twelve-month grant funding for officer positions.

108 (3) The State Department of Education shall promulgate rules  
109 and regulations prescribing procedures for the application,  
110 expenditure requirements and the administration of the Mississippi  
111 Community Oriented Policing Services in Schools (MCOPS) program  
112 established in this section, and shall make a report on the  
113 implementation of the MCOPS program with any recommendations to  
114 the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

115 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
116 and after July 1, 2025.

