

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



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

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

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

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

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

(e) All agencies receiving awards through the MCOPS in Schools program are required to send the School Resource Officer 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.

