

By: Representative Ladner

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 597

1       AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
2 STANDARDS AND TRAINING TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO REQUIRE ALL  
3 ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' TRAINING ACADEMIES IN THE  
4 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPONENTS  
5 ON THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 AND THE UNITED STATES  
6 CONSTITUTION; TO AMEND SECTION 45-6-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
7 IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9       SECTION 1.   The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards  
10 and Training shall promulgate regulations to require all  
11 accredited law enforcement officers' training academies in the  
12 State of Mississippi to provide education and training components  
13 on the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and the United States  
14 Constitution to consist of not less than eight (8) hours in the  
15 initial law enforcement officer certification program and not less  
16 than two (2) hours in any required continuing education program  
17 for law enforcement officers. The constitutional component will  
18 train officers to exercise the responsibilities of their policing  
19 authority within the parameters of the state and federal  
20 constitutions and federal and state court decisions, which

21 together define the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement  
22 agencies and personnel in terms of everyday practices through  
23 constitutional decision-making, which further provides a framework  
24 to ensure fair, impartial and effective law enforcement consistent  
25 with constitutional principles, democratic values and community  
26 expectations, specifically regarding citizens rights under the  
27 Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth amendments to the  
28 United States Constitution.

29         **SECTION 2.** Section 45-6-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
30 amended as follows:

31             45-6-7. In addition to the powers conferred upon the board  
32 elsewhere in this chapter, the board shall have power to:

33                 (a) Promulgate rules and regulations for the  
34 administration of this chapter, including the authority to require  
35 the submission of reports and information by law enforcement  
36 agencies of the state and its political subdivisions.

37                 (b) Establish minimum educational and training  
38 standards for admission to employment or appointment as a law  
39 enforcement officer or a part-time law enforcement officer: (i)  
40 in a permanent position; and (ii) in a probationary status. The  
41 minimum educational and training standards for any law enforcement  
42 officer assigned to field or investigative duties shall include at  
43 least two (2) hours of training related to handling complaints of  
44 human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children  
45 as defined in Section 43-21-105, communicating with such victims,



46 and requiring the officer to contact the Department of Child  
47 Protection Services when human trafficking or commercial sexual  
48 exploitation is suspected.

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

52 (d) Revoke certification for cause and in the manner  
53 provided in this chapter. The board is authorized to conduct  
54 investigations and subpoena documents regarding revocations. The  
55 board shall maintain a current list of all persons certified under  
56 this chapter who have been placed on probation, suspended,  
57 subjected to revocation of certification, or any combination of  
58 these. The board may establish a hearing panel for the purpose of  
59 providing a hearing to any law enforcement officer for whom the  
60 board believes there is a basis for reprimand, suspension,  
61 cancellation of, or recalling the certification of a law  
62 enforcement officer. The hearing panel shall provide its written  
63 findings and recommendations to the board.

64 (e) Establish minimum curriculum requirements for basic  
65 and advanced courses and programs for schools operated by or for  
66 the state or any political subdivision thereof for the specific  
67 purpose of training police and other law enforcement officers,  
68 both full- and part-time, which shall include a minimum of two (2)  
69 hours of training in a course or courses related to the  
70 identification of and support for victims of human trafficking and



71 commercial sexual exploitation and eight (8) hours of training on  
72 the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 and the United States  
73 Constitution.

74 (f) Consult and cooperate with counties,  
75 municipalities, state agencies, other governmental agencies, and  
76 with universities, colleges, community and junior colleges and  
77 other institutions concerning the development of training schools,  
78 programs or courses of instruction for personnel defined in this  
79 chapter.

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

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

85 (i) Approve law enforcement officer training schools  
86 for operation by or for the state or any political subdivision  
87 thereof for the specific purpose of training personnel defined in  
88 this chapter.

89 (j) Upon the request of agencies employing personnel  
90 defined in this chapter, conduct surveys or aid municipalities and  
91 counties to conduct surveys through qualified public or private  
92 agencies and assist in the implementation of any recommendations  
93 resulting from such surveys.

94 (k) Upon request of agencies within the purview of this  
95 chapter, conduct general and specific management surveys and



96 studies of the operations of the requesting agencies at no cost to  
97 those agencies. The role of the board under this subsection shall  
98 be that of management consultant.

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

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

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

108 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
109 and after July 1, 2025.

