

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(k) Upon request of agencies within the purview of this
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 (l) 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.

