

By: Dearing

To: Highways and  
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2157

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-1-136, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO CONTRACT  
3 WITH PRIVATE SECURITY FIRMS TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR CERTAIN  
4 BUILDINGS, PROPERTY OR FACILITIES IN WHICH A WELCOME CENTER OR  
5 HOSPITALITY STATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI  
6 DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 65-1-136, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:[WAN1]

11 65-1-136. (1) In addition to employing security officers as  
12 full-time employees of the Mississippi Department of  
13 Transportation as authorized under subsection (1) of Section  
14 65-1-131, the Mississippi Transportation Commission may contract  
15 with any private security firm or business authorized to do  
16 business in this state for the purpose of providing security for  
17 buildings, property or facilities owned by or under the  
18 jurisdiction of the Transportation Commission or the  
19 Transportation Department, or for buildings, property or  
20 facilities located on a trunkline highway at or near a point of  
21 entry into this state in which a welcome center or hospitality  
22 station has been established by the Mississippi Department of  
23 Economic and Community Development.

24           (2) A security officer of a security firm or business with  
25 which the commission has contracted pursuant to the provisions of  
26 this section, while engaged in the performance of his duties,  
27 shall carry on his person a badge identifying him as a security  
28 officer and an identification card issued by the Transportation  
29 Commission. When in uniform, each such security officer shall  
30 wear his badge in plain view.

31           (3) A security officer of a security firm or business with  
32 which the commission has contracted pursuant to the provisions of  
33 this section shall have only such powers of arrest as may be  
34 exercised by a private citizen of this state and only such right  
35 to bear firearms or weapons while engaged in the performance of  
36 his duties as authorized under Section 97-37-7.

37           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
38 and after its passage.