

By: Dearing

To: Highways and
TransportationSENATE BILL NO. 2157
(As Passed the Senate)

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.