

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and
Welfare; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2694

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-4-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO EMPLOY
3 SECURITY GUARDS AND PROMOTE THEM TO "CAMPUS POLICE" AFTER
4 COMPLETING APPROPRIATE TRAINING AT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING
5 ACADEMY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-4-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 41-4-23. (a) It will be the duty of the director of any
10 mental health or mental retardation facility under the direction
11 or control of the State Department of Mental Health to designate
12 certain employees as security guards and campus police. The
13 names, qualifications, and training of such campus police will be
14 reported to the Executive Director of the State Department of
15 Mental Health and spread upon the official minutes of the State
16 Board of Mental Health.

17 All campus police, subsequent to employment but prior to
18 performing duties as campus police, will attend and satisfactorily
19 complete the training course required for law enforcement officers
20 at the Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy or an equivalent
21 facility. Campus police training may be at the expense of the
22 Department of Mental Health and conditioned upon work repayment by
23 the employee in accordance with educational leave regulations
24 promulgated by the State Board of Mental Health. Failure to meet
25 repayment obligations may result in revocation of law enforcement
26 certification in the same manner provided in Section 37-101-291,
27 Mississippi Code of 1972. A complete record of all law
28 enforcement training of each employee will be maintained in each



29 employee's record of employment. A master file of all such
30 employees' training will be kept in the central office of the
31 State Department of Mental Health.

32 (b) All campus police will be duly constituted peace
33 officers with powers and duties of a constable but such authority
34 may be exercised only on the premises of institutions under the
35 control of the State Department of Mental Health and public
36 property immediately adjacent to such premises. Each person
37 designated as a security guard or campus police will enter into
38 bond * * * in the penalty amount of not less than Ten Thousand
39 Dollars (\$10,000.00), the premium for which shall be paid by the
40 facility employing such security guard or campus police.

41 (c) All security guards and campus police will exercise
42 their authority while in performance of their duty on any of the
43 facilities under the direction or control of the State Department
44 of Mental Health and public property immediately adjacent to such
45 facilities; will be required to dress in uniforms prescribed by
46 the State Board of Mental Health; and will be authorized to carry
47 weapons. Employees designated as campus police shall be duly
48 sworn and vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests, and
49 shall exercise primarily the responsibilities of the prevention
50 and detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the
51 enforcement of the ordinances and policies of the Department of
52 Mental Health, a political subdivision of the State of
53 Mississippi. Employees designated as campus police shall be
54 considered law enforcement officers within the meaning of Section
55 45-6-3.

56 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
57 and after July 1, 2002.

