

By: Representatives Davis, Watson

To: Local and Private  
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1794

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FORREST COUNTY  
2 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO EMPLOY PERSONS CERTIFIED AS LAW ENFORCEMENT  
3 OFFICERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENFORCING ALL VIOLATIONS OF LAW THAT  
4 OCCUR ON OR WITHIN FIVE HUNDRED FEET OF ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY THE  
5 HOSPITAL; TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ENTER INTO INTERLOCAL  
6 AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES FOR THE PROVISION  
7 OF EQUIPMENT OR TRAFFIC CONTROL DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. For the purposes of this act, the following terms  
10 shall have the meanings herein ascribed unless the context  
11 otherwise requires:

12 (a) "Board" means the Board of Trustees of Forrest  
13 County General Hospital.

14 (b) "Hospital" means Forrest County General Hospital.

15 SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees of Forrest County General  
16 Hospital, in its discretion, may employ persons certified as law  
17 enforcement officers by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer  
18 Standards and Training under the provisions of Chapter 6 of Title  
19 45, Mississippi Code of 1972. Such officers, when so employed,  
20 shall be vested with the powers and subjected to the duties of a  
21 constable for the purpose of preventing all violations of law that  
22 occur on or within five hundred (500) feet of any property owned  
23 by the hospital, if the board determines that it wants such law  
24 enforcement officers to exercise such powers and if reasonably  
25 determined to have a possible impact on the safety of hospital  
26 employees, staff, patients or visitors while on such property.  
27 However, nothing in this act shall be interpreted to require  
28 action by any such law enforcement officer employed by the  
29 hospital with regard to any activity occurring off the boundaries

30 of hospital property, nor shall the board, any member of the  
31 board, any hospital employee or any member of the hospital staff  
32 be liable for any failure to act with regard to any event,  
33 situation or activity occurring off the boundaries of property  
34 owned by the hospital. The board may enter into interlocal  
35 agreements with other law enforcement entities for the provision  
36 of equipment or traffic control duties; however, the duty to  
37 enforce traffic regulations and to enforce the laws of the state  
38 or municipality off hospital property lies with the local police  
39 or sheriff's department which may not withhold its services solely  
40 because of the lack of such an agreement.

41       **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
42 and after its passage.