

HOUSE BILL 1331

By DeBerry J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-118, relative to university and college police and security departments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-118, is amended by adding the following language as new subsection (h) and by relettering subsequent subsections accordingly:

(h)

(1) Private universities or colleges that are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and that have an enrollment which is thirty percent (30%) or more of the population of the municipality in which the main campus is located may employ and commission campus police officers for the main campus under the conditions of this section; provided, that the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality has appointed the police officer as a special deputy in accordance with § 8-8-212.

(2) The chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the main campus is located shall define any geographical limitation on the exercise of police power of the special deputy.

(3) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the law enforcement agency in which the main campus is located shall be immune from any suit by anyone incurring any wrong, injury, loss, damage, or expense resulting from any act or failure to act on the part of any special deputy commissioned as a campus police officer by a private university or college.

(4) No person shall be appointed as a special deputy or be commissioned as a campus police officer by a private university or college under this subsection (h), unless the person proves to the chief law enforcement officer in which the main campus is located that the person's financial responsibility is in accordance with § 8-8-303(c) and the person has successfully completed the certification requirements of the peace officers standards and training commission (POST), or at least the equivalent thereof.

(5) This subsection (h) shall not entitle the campus police officers to any public funding, for training or otherwise.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.