To: Judiciary A

By: Representative Ford

HOUSE BILL NO. 613 (As Passed the House)

AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 13-7-1, 13-7-3, 13-7-5, 13-7-7, 13-7-9, 13-7-11, 13-7-13, 13-7-15, 13-7-17, 13-7-19, 13-7-21, 13-7-23, 13-7-25, 13-7-27, 13-7-29, 13-7-31, 13-7-33, 13-7-35, 3 13-7-37, 13-7-39, 13-7-41, 13-7-43, 13-7-45, 13-7-47 AND 13-7-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATE THE STATE GRAND JURY ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 99-11-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE EXEMPTION OF THE STATE GRAND JURY ACT FROM THE LAW GOVERNING LOCAL 5 6 7 JURISDICTION AND VENUE; TO AMEND SECTION 27 OF CHAPTER 553, LAWS 8 OF 1993, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 382, LAWS OF 1998, TO EXTEND THE 9 REPEALER ON THE GRAND JURY ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 11 SECTION 1. Section 13-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 12 13 reenacted as follows: 13-7-1. This chapter may be cited as the "State Grand Jury 14 15 Act," and any state grand jury which may be convened as provided herein shall be known as "State Grand Jury of Mississippi." 16 SECTION 2. Section 13-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 17 reenacted as follows: 18 19 13-7-3. For purposes of this chapter: 20 (a) The phrase "Attorney General or his designee" also includes: 21 22 (i) The Attorney General or his designees; 23 (ii) The Attorney General and his designee or 24 designees. The term "impaneling judge" means any senior 25 (b) circuit court judge of any circuit court district who, upon 26 27 petition by the Attorney General, impanels a state grand jury

under the provisions of this chapter and shall also include any

SECTION 3. Section 13-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

successor to such judge as provided by law.

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- 31 reenacted as follows:
- 32 13-7-5. There is established a state grand jury system.
- 33 Each state grand jury shall consist of twenty (20) persons who may
- 34 be impaneled and who may meet at any suitable location within the
- 35 state as designated by the impaneling judge. Fifteen (15) members
- 36 of a state grand jury constitute a quorum.
- 37 SECTION 4. Section 13-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 38 reenacted as follows:
- 39 13-7-7. (1) The jurisdiction of a state grand jury
- 40 impaneled under this chapter extends throughout the state. The
- 41 subject matter jurisdiction of a state grand jury in all cases is
- 42 limited to offenses involving any and all conduct made unlawful by
- 43 the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substance Law or any other
- 44 provision of law involving narcotics, dangerous drugs or
- 45 controlled substances, or any crime arising out of or in
- 46 connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs or
- 47 controlled substances, and crimes involving any attempt, aiding,
- 48 abetting, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the
- 49 aforementioned crimes if the crimes occur within more than one (1)
- 50 circuit court district or have transpired or are transpiring or
- 51 have significance in more than one (1) circuit court district of
- 52 this state.
- 53 (2) Whenever the Attorney General considers it necessary,
- 54 and normal investigative or prosecutorial procedures are not
- 55 adequate, the Attorney General may petition in writing to the
- 56 senior circuit court judge of any circuit court district in this
- 57 state for an order impaneling a state grand jury. For the
- 58 purposes of this chapter, such judge shall be referred to as the
- 59 impaneling judge. The petition must allege the following:
- 60 (a) The type of offenses to be inquired into;
- (b) That the state grand jury has jurisdiction to
- 62 consider such matters;
- (c) That the offenses to be inquired into have occurred

- 64 within more than one (1) circuit court district or have transpired
- or are transpiring or have significance in more than one (1)
- 66 circuit court district of this state;
- (d) That the Attorney General has conferred with the
- 68 Commissioner of Public Safety and the Director of the Mississippi
- 69 Bureau of Narcotics and that each of such officials join in the
- 70 petition; and
- 71 (e) That the Attorney General has conferred with the
- 72 appropriate district attorney for each jurisdiction in which the
- 73 crime or crimes are alleged to have occurred.
- 74 (3) The impaneling judge, after due consideration of the
- 75 petition, may order the impanelment of a state grand jury in
- 76 accordance with the petition for a term of twelve (12) calendar
- 77 months. Upon petition by the Attorney General, the impaneling
- 78 judge, by order, may extend the term of that state grand jury for
- 79 a period of six (6) months, but the term of that state grand jury,
- 80 including any extension thereof, shall not exceed two (2) years.
- 81 (4) The impaneling judge shall preside over the state grand
- 82 jury until its discharge.
- 83 (5) The impaneling judge may discharge a state grand jury
- 84 prior to the end of its original term or any extensions thereof,
- 85 upon a determination that its business has been completed, or upon
- 86 the request of the Attorney General.
- 87 (6) If, at any time within the original term of any state
- 88 grand jury or any extension thereof, the impaneling judge
- 89 determines that the state grand jury is not conducting
- 90 investigative activity within its jurisdiction or proper
- 91 investigative activity, the impaneling judge may limit the
- 92 investigations so that the investigation conforms with the
- 93 jurisdiction of the state grand jury and existing law or he may
- 94 discharge the state grand jury. An order issued pursuant to this
- 95 subsection or under subsection (5) of this section shall not
- 96 become effective less than ten (10) days after the date on which

- 97 it is issued and actual notice given to the Attorney General and
- 98 the foreman of the state grand jury, and may be appealed by the
- 99 Attorney General to the Supreme Court. If an appeal from the
- 100 order is made, the state grand jury, except as otherwise ordered
- 101 by the Supreme Court, shall continue to exercise its powers
- 102 pending disposition of the appeal.
- SECTION 5. Section 13-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 104 reenacted as follows:
- 105 13-7-9. A state grand jury may return indictments
- 106 irrespective of the county or judicial district where the offense
- 107 is committed. If an indictment is returned, it must be certified
- 108 and transferred for prosecution to the county designated by the
- 109 impaneling judge. The powers and duties of and the law applicable
- 110 to county grand juries apply to the state grand jury, except when
- 111 such powers and duties and applicable law are inconsistent with
- 112 the provisions of this chapter.
- SECTION 6. Section 13-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 114 reenacted as follows:
- 115 13-7-11. The Attorney General or his designee shall attend
- 116 sessions of a state grand jury and shall serve as its legal
- 117 advisor. The Attorney General or his designee shall examine
- 118 witnesses, present evidence, and draft indictments and reports
- 119 upon the direction of a state grand jury.
- 120 SECTION 7. Section 13-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 121 reenacted as follows:
- 122 13-7-13. The impaneling judge shall appoint a circuit clerk
- 123 who shall serve as the clerk of the state grand jury. The
- 124 compensation of the state grand jury clerk shall be paid out of
- 125 any available funds appropriated for that purpose.
- 126 SECTION 8. Section 13-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 127 reenacted as follows:
- 128 13-7-15. After the impaneling judge orders a term for the
- 129 state grand jury on petition of the Attorney General, the

130 impaneling judge shall order that the circuit clerk for each 131 county shall proceed to draw at random from the jury box as 132 provided by Section 13-5-26, the name of one (1) voter of such county for each two thousand (2,000) voters or fraction thereof 133 134 registered in such county and shall place these names on a list. 135 The circuit clerk shall not disqualify or excuse any individual whose name is drawn. When the list is compiled, the clerk of the 136 circuit court for each county shall forward the list to the clerk 137 of the state grand jury. Upon receipt of all the lists from the 138 139 clerks of the circuit courts, the clerk of the state grand jury 140 shall place all the names so received upon a list which shall be

The impaneling judge shall order the clerk of the state grand jury to produce the master list and shall direct the random drawing of the names of one hundred (100) persons from the master list. The names drawn shall be given to the clerk of the state grand jury who shall cause each person drawn for service to be served with a summons either personally by the sheriff of the county where the juror resides or by mail, addressed to the juror at his usual residence, business or post office address, requiring him to report for state grand jury service at a specified time and place as designated by the impaneling judge. From the one hundred (100) persons summoned, a state grand jury shall be drawn for that term consisting of twenty (20) persons. State grand jurors must be drawn in the same manner as jurors are drawn for service on the county grand jury.

158 causes:

159 (a) When the juror is ill, or when on account of

160 serious illness in the juror's family, the presence of the juror

jurors, unless excused by the court for one (1) of the following

All qualified persons shall be liable to serve as state grand

- serious illness in the juror's family, the presence of the juror is required at home;
- 162 (b) When the juror's attendance would cause a serious

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known as the master list.

163 financial loss to the juror or to the juror's business; or

(c) When the juror is under an emergency, fairly

165 equivalent to those mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs (a) and

166 (b).

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167 An excuse of illness under paragraph (a) may be made to the 168 state grand jury clerk outside of open court by providing the 169 clerk with either a certificate of a licensed physician or an 170 affidavit of the juror, stating that the juror is ill or that 171 there is a serious illness in the juror's family. The test of an 172 excuse under paragraph (b) shall be whether, if the juror were incapacitated by illness or otherwise for a week, some other 173 174 persons would be available or could reasonably be procured to 175 carry on the business for the week, and the test of an excuse under paragraph (c) shall be such as to be the fair equivalent, 176

under the circumstances of that prescribed under paragraph (b).

In cases under paragraphs (b) and (c) the excuse must be made by

the juror, in open court, under oath.

It shall be unlawful for any employer or other person to persuade or attempt to persuade any juror to avoid jury service, or to intimidate or to threaten any juror in that respect. So to do shall be deemed an interference with the administration of justice and a contempt of court and punishable as such.

Every citizen over sixty-five (65) years of age shall be exempt from service if he claims the privilege. No qualified juror shall be excluded because of such reason, but the same shall be a personal privilege to be claimed by any person selected for state grand jury duty. Any citizen over sixty-five (65) years of age may claim this personal privilege outside of open court by providing the clerk of court with information that allows the clerk to determine the validity of the claim.

193 The state grand jurors shall be charged by the impaneling 194 judge as to their authority and responsibility under the law and 195 each juror shall be sworn pursuant to Section 13-5-45. Nothing in

- 196 this section shall be construed as limiting the right of the
- 197 Attorney General or his designee to request that a potential state
- 198 grand juror be excused for cause. The jury selection process
- 199 shall be conducted by the impaneling judge. Jurors of a state
- 200 grand jury shall receive reimbursement for travel and mileage as
- 201 provided for state employees by Section 25-3-41 and shall be paid
- 202 per diem compensation in the amount provided by Section 25-3-69.
- 203 All compensation and expenses for meals and lodging of state grand
- 204 jurors shall be paid out of any available funds appropriated for
- 205 that purpose.
- SECTION 9. Section 13-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 207 reenacted as follows:
- 208 13-7-17. The impaneling judge shall appoint one of the
- 209 jurors to be a foreman and another to be deputy foreman. During
- 210 the absence of the foreman, the deputy foreman shall act as
- 211 foreman. The foreman and deputy foreman shall be sworn pursuant
- 212 to Section 13-5-45.
- SECTION 10. Section 13-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 214 reenacted as follows:
- 215 13-7-19. After the state grand jurors shall have been sworn
- 216 and impaneled, no objections shall be raised by plea or otherwise,
- 217 to the state grand jury, but the impaneling of the state grand
- 218 jury shall be conclusive evidence of its competency and
- 219 qualifications. However, any party interested may challenge the
- 220 jury, except to the array, for fraud.
- SECTION 11. Section 13-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 222 reenacted as follows:
- 223 13-7-21. The clerk of the state grand jury, upon request of
- 224 the Attorney General or his designee, shall issue subpoenas, or
- 225 subpoenas duces tecum to compel individuals, documents or other
- 226 materials to be brought from anywhere in the state or another
- 227 state to a state grand jury. In addition, a state grand jury may
- 228 proceed in the same manner as is provided for by law in relation

229 to the issuance of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; however, 230 the provisions of such law shall not be considered a limitation 231 upon this section, but shall be supplemental thereto. subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum may be for investigative 232 233 purposes and for the retention of documents or other materials so 234 subpoenaed for proper criminal proceedings. Any investigator 235 employed by the Attorney General or any law enforcement officer 236 with appropriate jurisdiction is empowered to serve such subpoenas 237 and subpoenas duces tecum and receive such documents and other 238 materials for return to a state grand jury. Any person violating 239 a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum issued pursuant to this 240 chapter, or who fails to fully answer all questions put to him 241 before proceedings of the state grand jury whenever the response 242 thereto is not privileged or otherwise protected by law, including the granting of immunity as authorized by this chapter, or any 243 244 other law, may be punished by the impaneling judge for contempt 245 provided the response is not privileged or otherwise protected by 246 law. The Attorney General or his designee may petition the 247 impaneling judge to compel compliance by the person alleged to 248 have committed the violation or who has failed to answer. 249 impaneling judge considers compliance is warranted, he may order 250 compliance and may punish the individual for contempt, as provided 251 in Section 9-1-17, where the compliance does not occur. 252 of the state grand jury may also issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to compel individuals, documents or other materials to 253 254 be brought from anywhere in the state to the trial of any 255 indictment returned by a state grand jury or the trial of any 256 civil forfeiture action arising out of an investigation conducted 257 by a state grand jury. Section 13-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 258 SECTION 12.

13-7-23. Once a state grand jury has entered into a term,

the petition and order establishing and impaneling the state grand

reenacted as follows:

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- 262 jury may be amended as often as necessary and appropriate so as to
- 263 expand the areas of inquiry authorized by the order or to add
- 264 additional areas of inquiry thereto, consistent with the
- 265 provisions of this chapter. The procedures for amending this
- 266 authority are the same as those for filing the original petition
- 267 and order.
- SECTION 13. Section 13-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 269 reenacted as follows:
- 270 13-7-25. A court reporter shall record either
- 271 stenographically or by use of an electronic recording device, all
- 272 state grand jury proceedings except when the state grand jury is
- 273 deliberating or voting. Subject to the limitations of Section
- 274 13-7-29 and any rule of court, a defendant has the right to review
- 275 and to reproduce the stenographically or electronically recorded
- 276 materials. Transcripts of the recorded testimony or proceedings
- 277 must be made when requested by the Attorney General or his
- 278 designee. An unintentional failure of any recording to reproduce
- 279 all or any portion of the testimony or proceeding shall not affect
- 280 the validity of the prosecution. The recording or reporter's
- 281 notes or any transcript prepared therefrom and all books, papers,
- 282 records and correspondence produced before the state grand jury
- 283 shall remain in the custody and control of the Attorney General or
- 284 his designee unless otherwise ordered by the court in a particular
- 285 case.
- SECTION 14. Section 13-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 287 reenacted as follows:
- 288 13-7-27. The foreman shall administer an oath or affirmation
- 289 in the manner prescribed by law to any witness who testifies
- 290 before a state grand jury.
- SECTION 15. Section 13-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 292 reenacted as follows:
- 293 13-7-29. (1) State grand jury proceedings are secret, and a
- 294 state grand juror shall not disclose the nature or substance of

295 the deliberations or vote of the state grand jury. The only

296 persons who may be present in the state grand jury room when a

- 297 state grand jury is in session, except for deliberations and
- 298 voting, are the state grand jurors, the Attorney General or his
- 299 designees, an interpreter if necessary and the witness testifying.
- 300 A state grand juror, the Attorney General or his designees, any
- 301 interpreter used and any person to whom disclosure is made
- 302 pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section may not disclose the
- 303 testimony of a witness examined before a state grand jury or other
- 304 evidence received by it except when directed by a court for the
- 305 purpose of:
- 306 (a) Ascertaining whether it is consistent with the
- 307 testimony given by the witness before the court in any subsequent
- 308 criminal proceedings;
- 309 (b) Determining whether the witness is guilty of
- 310 perjury;
- 311 (c) Assisting local, state or federal law enforcement
- 312 or investigating agencies, including another grand jury, in
- 313 investigating crimes under their investigative jurisdiction;
- 314 (d) Providing the defendant the materials to which he
- 315 is entitled pursuant to Section 13-7-25; or
- 316 (e) Complying with constitutional, statutory or other
- 317 legal requirements or to further justice.
- If the court orders disclosure of matters occurring before a
- 319 state grand jury, the disclosure shall be made in that manner, at
- 320 that time, and under those conditions as the court directs.
- 321 (2) In addition, disclosure of testimony of a witness
- 322 examined before a state grand jury or other evidence received by
- 323 it may be made without being directed by a court to:
- 324 (a) The Attorney General or his designees for use in
- 325 the performance of their duties; or
- 326 (b) Those governmental personnel, including personnel
- 327 of the state or its political subdivisions, as are considered

- 328 necessary by the Attorney General or his designee to assist in the performance of their duties to enforce the criminal laws of the 329 330 state; however, any person to whom matters are disclosed under this paragraph (b) shall not utilize the state grand jury material 331 332 for purposes other than assisting the Attorney General or his designee in the performance of their duties to enforce the 333 334 criminal laws of this state. The Attorney General or his designees shall promptly provide the impaneling judge the names of 335 336 the persons to whom the disclosure has been made and shall certify
- 339 (3) Nothing in this section affects the attorney-client
 340 relationship. A client has the right to communicate to his
 341 attorney any testimony given by the client to a state grand jury,
 342 any matters involving the client discussed in the client's
 343 presence before a state grand jury and evidence involving the
 344 client received by a proffer to a state grand jury in the client's
 345 presence.

that he has advised these persons of their obligations of secrecy

- 346 (4) Any person violating the provisions of this section is 347 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by 348 a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by a 349 term of imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or by both such 350 fine and imprisonment.
- 351 (5) State grand jurors, the Attorney General and his 352 designee, any interpreter used and the clerk of the state grand 353 jury shall be sworn to secrecy and also may be punished for 354 criminal contempt for violations of this section.
- 355 SECTION 16. Section 13-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 356 reenacted as follows:
- 13-7-31. Except for the prosecution of cases arising from indictments issued by the state grand jury, the impaneling judge has jurisdiction to hear all matters arising from the proceedings of a state grand jury, including, but not limited to, matters

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under this section.

- 361 related to the impanelment or removal of state grand jurors, the
- 362 quashing of subpoenas and the punishment for contempt.
- 363 SECTION 17. Section 13-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 364 reenacted as follows:
- 365 13-7-33. The Attorney General or his designee shall
- 366 coordinate the scheduling of activities of any state grand jury.
- 367 SECTION 18. Section 13-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 368 reenacted as follows:
- 369 13-7-35. (1) In order to return a "True Bill" of
- 370 indictment, twelve (12) or more state grand jurors must find that
- 371 probable cause exists for the indictment and vote in favor of the
- 372 indictment. Upon indictment by a state grand jury, the indictment
- 373 shall be returned to the impaneling judge. If the impaneling
- 374 judge considers the indictment to be within the authority of the
- 375 state grand jury and otherwise in accordance with the provisions
- 376 of this chapter, he shall order the clerk of the state grand jury
- 377 to certify the indictment and return the indictment to the county
- 378 designated by the impaneling judge as the county in which the
- 379 indictment shall be tried.
- 380 (2) Indictments returned by a state grand jury are properly
- 381 triable in any county of the state where any of the alleged
- 382 conduct occurred. The impaneling judge to whom the indictment is
- 383 returned shall designate the county in which the indictment shall
- 384 be tried. If a multicount indictment returned by a state grand
- 385 jury is properly triable in a single proceeding as otherwise
- 386 provided by law, all counts may be tried in the county designated
- 387 by the impaneling judge notwithstanding the fact that different
- 388 counts may have occurred in more than one county.
- 389 (3) In determining the venue for indictments returned by a
- 390 state grand jury, the impaneling judge shall select the county in
- 391 which the state and defendant may receive a fair trial before an
- 392 impartial jury taking into consideration the totality of the
- 393 circumstances of each case.

- 394 (4) When the indictment has been returned to the circuit
 395 clerk of the county designated by the impaneling judge, the capias
 396 shall be issued as otherwise provided by law. The indictment
- 397 shall be kept secret until the defendant is in custody or has been
- 398 released pending trial.
- 399 SECTION 19. Section 13-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 400 reenacted as follows:
- 401 13-7-37. If any person asks to be excused from testifying
- 402 before a state grand jury or from producing any books, papers,
- 403 records, correspondence or other documents before a state grand
- 404 jury on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of him
- 405 may tend to incriminate him or subject him to any penalty or
- 406 forfeiture and such person, notwithstanding such ground, is
- 407 directed by the impaneling judge to give the testimony or produce
- 408 the evidence, he shall comply with this direction, but no
- 409 testimony so given or evidence produced may be received against
- 410 him in any criminal action, investigation or criminal proceeding.
- 411 No individual testifying or producing evidence or documents is
- 412 exempt from prosecution or punishment for any perjury committed by
- 413 him while so testifying, and the testimony or evidence given or
- 414 produced is admissible against him upon any criminal action,
- 415 criminal investigation or criminal proceeding concerning this
- 416 perjury; however, any individual may execute, acknowledge and file
- 417 a statement with the appropriate court expressly waiving immunity
- 418 or privilege in respect to any testimony given or produced and
- 419 thereupon the testimony or evidence given or produced may be
- 420 received or produced before any judge or justice, court tribunal,
- 421 grand jury or otherwise, and if so received or produced, the
- 422 individual is not entitled to any immunity or privilege on account
- 423 of any testimony he may give or evidence produced.
- 424 SECTION 20. Section 13-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 425 reenacted as follows:
- 426 13-7-39. Records, orders and subpoenas related to state

- 427 grand jury proceedings shall be kept under seal to the extent and
- 428 for the time that is necessary to prevent disclosure of matters
- 429 occurring before a state grand jury.
- 430 SECTION 21. Section 13-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 431 reenacted as follows:
- 432 13-7-41. The Attorney General shall make available suitable
- 433 space for state grand juries to meet. The Mississippi Department
- 434 of Public Safety and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics may
- 435 provide such services as required by the Attorney General and the
- 436 state grand juries.
- 437 SECTION 22. Section 13-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 438 reenacted as follows:
- 439 13-7-43. The Supreme Court may promulgate rules as are
- 440 necessary for the operation of the state grand jury system
- 441 established by this chapter.
- SECTION 23. Section 13-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 443 reenacted as follows:
- 13-7-45. If any part of this chapter is declared invalid,
- 445 unenforceable or unconstitutional by a court of competent
- 446 jurisdiction, that part shall be severable from the remaining
- 447 portions of this chapter, which portions shall remain in full
- 448 force and effect as if the invalid, unenforceable or
- 449 unconstitutional portion were omitted.
- 450 SECTION 24. Section 13-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 451 reenacted as follows:
- 452 13-7-47. This chapter applies to offenses committed both
- 453 before and after its effective date.
- SECTION 25. Section 13-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 455 reenacted as follows:
- 456 13-7-49. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as
- 457 amending, repealing or superseding any other law of this state
- 458 governing the powers and duties of county grand jurors, district
- 459 attorneys or law enforcement agencies or other officials with

- 460 regard to their authority to investigate, indict or prosecute
- 461 offenses that are prescribed by this chapter as within the
- 462 jurisdiction of the state grand jury.
- SECTION 26. Section 99-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 464 amended as follows:
- 99-11-3. (1) The local jurisdiction of all offenses, unless
- 466 otherwise provided by law, shall be in the county where committed.
- 467 But, if on the trial the evidence makes it doubtful in which of
- 468 several counties, including that in which the indictment or
- 469 affidavit alleges the offense was committed, such doubt shall not
- 470 avail to procure the acquittal of the defendant.
- 471 (2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall
- 472 not apply to indictments returned by a state grand jury. The
- 473 venue of trials for indictments returned by a state grand jury
- 474 shall be as provided by the State Grand Jury Act. This subsection
- 475 shall stand repealed from and after July 1, 2000.
- SECTION 27. Section 27 of Chapter 553, Laws of 1993, as
- 477 amended by Chapter 382, Laws of 1998, is amended as follows:
- Section 27. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 479 and after its passage, and, with the exception of Section 22,
- 480 shall stand repealed from and after July 1, 2002.
- SECTION 28. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 482 and after July 1, 1999.