

By: Representative Ford

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 655

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTION 99-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR INDIGENTS; TO  
3 AMEND SECTION 20 OF CHAPTER 575, LAWS OF 1998, TO EXTEND THE  
4 REPEALER ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR INDIGENTS; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 reenacted as follows:

9 99-15-15. When any person shall be charged with a felony,  
10 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for ninety (90) days or  
11 more, or commission of an act of delinquency, the court or the  
12 judge in vacation, being satisfied that such person is an indigent  
13 person and is unable to employ counsel, may, in the discretion of  
14 the court, appoint counsel to defend him.

15 Such appointed counsel shall have free access to the accused  
16 who shall have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in  
17 his favor.

18 The accused shall have such representation available at every  
19 critical stage of the proceeding against him where a substantial  
20 right may be affected.

21 SECTION 2. Section 20 of Chapter 575, Laws of 1998, is  
22 amended as follows:

23 Section 20. Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
24 which deals with the appointment of counsel for indigents, is  
25 repealed from and after July 1, 2000.

26 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
27 and after July 1, 1999.