

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2134

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-3-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE COMPENSATION OF THE FULL-TIME LEGAL ASSISTANTS EMPLOYED
3 BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 25-3-35. (1) The annual salaries of the following judges
8 are fixed as follows, to begin at the commencement of the next
9 term of office immediately succeeding the existing term:

10	Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.....	\$100,900.00
11	Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court.....	98,900.00
12	Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, each.....	98,300.00

13 However, in addition to their present official duties, there
14 are imposed upon the Supreme Court Justices the extra duties of
15 making a special study of existing laws and reporting to each
16 regular session of the Legislature such constructive suggestions
17 as they may deem necessary for the improvement of the
18 administration of justice, and of advising and counseling with the
19 State Librarian in the selection of law books for purchase and use
20 in the State Law Library, advising with the librarian thereof upon
21 the removal from the library of any books which may be the least
22 frequently used, and for the placing of same in a convenient
23 location so as to provide additional space for such books and
24 other current publications which may be more frequently used or
25 called for. For such extra services each justice, from and after
26 the effective date of Laws, 1997, Chapter 577, shall receive a sum
27 sufficient when added to the present salaries of the justices to

28 aggregate One Hundred Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$100,900.00)
29 for the Chief Justice, Ninety-eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars
30 (\$98,900.00) for the Presiding Justice, and Ninety-eight Thousand
31 Three Hundred Dollars (\$98,300.00) for Associate Justices, per
32 annum. As each existing term expires and the above-captioned
33 salaries become effective in due course, the extra duties and
34 compensation provided for shall cease.

35 (2) The annual salaries of the judges of the Court of
36 Appeals of Mississippi are fixed as follows:

37	Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.....	\$94,300.00
38	Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals	
39	each.....	91,500.00

40 (3) The annual salaries of the chancery and circuit court
41 judges are fixed as follows:

42	Chancery Judges, each.....	\$88,700.00
43	Circuit Judges, each.....	88,700.00

44 In addition to their present official duties, there are
45 imposed upon the chancery and circuit court judges the extra
46 duties of making a special study of existing laws relating to
47 trial courts and reporting to the Supreme Court of the State of
48 Mississippi such constructive suggestions as they may deem
49 necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice,
50 which shall be recommended to the Legislature by the Supreme Court
51 in the manner provided by law. The judges shall advise and
52 supervise in the purchase of law books for the libraries of each
53 district, and shall study and evaluate the inventory of books and
54 facilities now existing in the libraries of each district to
55 effect the removal and relocation of obsolete publications so as
56 to provide additional space for those books and current
57 publications more frequently used. The judges shall study the
58 existing rules promulgated by the circuit and chancery court
59 judicial associations governing the operation of chancery and
60 circuit courts, and revise the same pursuant to existing laws.
61 For such extra services each judge, from and after the effective
62 date of Laws, 1997, Chapter 577, shall receive a sum sufficient
63 when added to the present salaries of the judges to aggregate
64 Eighty-eight Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$88,700.00) per annum
65 for each judge. Upon the expiration of the existing term, the

66 above-captioned salaries become effective in due course, and the
67 extra duties and compensation provided for shall cease.

68 (4) The Supreme Court shall prepare a payroll for chancery
69 judges and circuit judges and submit such payroll to the
70 Department of Finance and Administration.

71 (5) The annual salary of the full-time district attorneys
72 shall be Seventy-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Dollars
73 (\$79,830.00).

74 (6) (a) The annual salary of the full-time legal assistants
75 who have actively practiced law for less than two (2) years shall
76 be not less than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) nor
77 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), as established by
78 the district attorney. However, the maximum salary of Fifty
79 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) shall not apply to any full-time
80 legal assistant who has actively practiced law for less than two
81 (2) years and whose salary exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars
82 (\$50,000) on July 1, 1999.

83 (b) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
84 have actively practiced law for more than two (2) years, but less
85 than six (6) years, shall not be less than Fifty Thousand Dollars
86 (\$50,000) nor more than Sixty-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
87 (\$67,500.00), as established by the district attorney.

88 (c) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
89 have actively practiced law for more than six (6) years, but less
90 than ten (10) years, shall not be less than Sixty-seven Thousand
91 Five Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00) nor more than Seventy-five
92 Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), as established by the District
93 Attorney.

94 (d) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
95 have actively practiced law in excess of ten (10) years shall not
96 be less than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) and may,
97 in the discretion of the district attorney, include an additional
98 amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each year the legal
99 assistant has practiced law in excess of ten (10) years; provided,

100 the total salary of the legal assistant shall not exceed

101 Eighty-five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00).

102 (e) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) through (d) of this
103 subsection (6), a full-time legal assistant shall not receive an
104 increase in salary which exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the
105 previous year's salary.

106 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
107 and after July 1, 1999.