

By: Senator(s) Jackson

To: Juvenile Justice

SENATE BILL NO. 2487

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON GANG BEHAVIOR IN
2 MISSISSIPPI TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
3 TO STUDY, TRACK, IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH
4 GANGS AND DEVIANT GROUPS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
5 MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE AND SPECIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
6 TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TASK
7 FORCE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Gang
11 Behavior in Mississippi, the purpose of which is to coordinate the
12 efforts of law enforcement agencies in the state to study, track,
13 identify and develop strategies for dealing with gangs and deviant
14 groups and individuals.

15 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following voting
16 members: the Director of the Bureau of Narcotics, or his
17 designee; the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designee; the
18 chief drug investigator for the Mississippi Department of
19 Corrections; the Attorney General, or his designee; the State
20 Superintendent of Education, or his designee; the President of the
21 Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, or his designee; the President
22 of the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, or his
23 designee; the President of the Mississippi Constables'
24 Association, or his designee; the Adjutant General of the
25 Mississippi National Guard, or his designee; the Director of the
26 Office of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services, or
27 his designee; a designee of the Mississippi Association of Black
28 Law Enforcement; a designee of the National Association for the
29 Advancement of Colored People; an appointee of the Lieutenant

30 Governor who is an expert in criminal justice and gang activity,
31 who shall serve as vice-chairman of the task force; and an
32 appointee of the Governor who is an expert in criminal justice and
33 gang activity, who shall serve as chairman of the task force.

34 (3) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on
35 Juvenile Justice, Judiciary, Corrections and Education, or their
36 designees, shall serve in an advisory capacity as ex officio
37 nonvoting members of the task force.

38 (4) The Chairman of the Task Force on Gang Behavior shall be
39 appointed annually by the Governor, who shall call the initial
40 meeting of the task force. The task force shall adopt bylaws and
41 rules for its efficient operation, which may include designation
42 of its organizational structure including other officers and
43 committees, duties of committees, staff policies and other such
44 procedures as may be necessary.

45 (5) The task force shall be assigned to the Mississippi
46 Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only, and
47 the department shall designate staff to assist the task force.
48 The task force shall have a line item in the budget of the
49 Department of Public Safety and shall be financed through the
50 department's annual appropriation wherein funds are made
51 available. Members of the task force may receive, within the
52 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
53 while engaged in official business of the task force, except that
54 the legislative members shall be paid from the contingent expense
55 funds of their respective houses.

56 (6) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
57 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
58 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
59 public comment.

60 (7) The task force may apply for and expend grants or other
61 contributions for the purpose of studying and tracking gang and
62 deviant activity in Mississippi.

63 (8) The Task Force on Gang Behavior in Mississippi shall
64 have the following responsibilities:

65 (a) Serve as a liaison with the appropriate local law
66 enforcement agencies, public school officials, human services

67 officials, youth court personnel and correctional officials to
68 track, study, identify and develop strategies for the prevention,
69 identification and suppression of illegal gang and deviant groups.

70 (b) Serve an advocacy and public awareness role with
71 the general public regarding illegal gang and deviant group
72 behavior.

73 (c) Recommend and make annual reports to the
74 Legislature and Governor regarding appropriate policies to reduce
75 illegal and deviant gang activity in Mississippi.

76 (d) Consult with experts and examine actions taken in
77 other states regarding illegal gang activity.

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