

By: Blackmon

To: Juvenile Justice;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 896

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE CONTINUATION OR ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY COURTS IN
3 CERTAIN COUNTIES; TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
4 1972, TO REVISE THE QUALIFICATION, ELECTION, TERM OF OFFICE AND
5 FILLING OF VACANCIES OF THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COURT JUDGE; TO
6 CODIFY SECTION 9-9-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
7 ELECTION OF JUDGES IN NEWLY CREATED COUNTY COURT DISTRICTS; TO
8 AMEND SECTION 9-9-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE
9 COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICE OF COUNTY COURT JUDGE; TO AMEND
10 SECTIONS 23-15-975, 23-15-977 AND 25-3-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
11 1972, IN CONFORMITY; TO AMEND SECTION 9-1-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
12 1972, TO REVISE THE AUTHORITY OF JUDGES TO GRANT REMEDIAL WRITS;
13 TO AMEND SECTION 9-1-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE
14 COUNTY COURT JUDGES AS THOSE WHO ARE CONSERVATORS OF THE PEACE; TO
15 AMEND SECTION 9-1-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE COUNTY
16 COURT JUDGES AMONG THOSE WHO ARE NOT TO PRACTICE LAW; TO AMEND
17 SECTION 9-1-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE COUNTY
18 COURT TO OBTAIN A SEAL; TO AMEND SECTION 9-1-36, MISSISSIPPI CODE
19 OF 1972, TO INCLUDE COUNTY COURT JUDGES AMONG THOSE FOR WHOM AN
20 OFFICE ALLOWANCE IS APPROPRIATED; TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-19,
21 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE HOLDING OF COUNTY
22 COURT IN CERTAIN COUNTIES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-9-21, 9-9-23,
23 43-21-107, 43-21-117, 43-21-123, 9-13-17 AND 9-13-61, MISSISSIPPI
24 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; TO AMEND SECTION 43-21-111,
25 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN STATE FUNDING OF
26 YOUTH COURT REFEREES IN COUNTIES NOT HAVING A COUNTY COURT; TO
27 PROVIDE FOR THE ABOLITION OF ALL FAMILY COURTS AND PROVIDE FOR THE
28 AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF CASES THEREFROM; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-3,
29 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
30 A COUNTY COURT BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE COUNTIES; TO
31 REPEAL SECTION 9-9-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES
32 CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES TO SUPPLEMENT THE SALARIES OF COUNTY
33 JUDGES; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
34 AUTHORIZES TWO COUNTY JUDGESHIPS FOR HARRISON COUNTY; TO REPEAL
35 SECTION 9-9-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THREE
36 COUNTY JUDGESHIPS FOR HINDS COUNTY; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-16,
37 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES TWO COUNTY JUDGESHIPS
38 FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE
39 OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES TWO COUNTY JUDGESHIPS FOR JACKSON

40 COUNTY; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
41 RESTRICTS THE PRACTICE OF LAW BY A COUNTY COURT JUDGE; TO REPEAL
42 SECTION 9-9-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE
43 ESTABLISHMENT OR ABOLITION OF COUNTY COURTS; TO REPEAL SECTION
44 9-9-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR TRANSFER OF
45 PENDING MATTERS IN ANY COUNTY COURT THAT MAY BE ABOLISHED; TO
46 REPEAL SECTION 9-9-41, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES
47 FOR THE ABOLITION OF COUNTY COURTS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES; TO REPEAL
48 SECTION 9-9-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REQUIRES
49 LEGISLATIVE ACTION OR ELECTION FOR ABOLITION OF COUNTY COURTS IN
50 CERTAIN COUNTIES; TO REPEAL SECTION 9-9-45, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
51 1972, WHICH REQUIRES THE ESTABLISHMENT OR ABOLITION OF COUNTY
52 COURTS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO AMEND SECTION 43-21-159,
53 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE YOUTH COURT JURISDICTION; AND
54 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

55

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

57 SECTION 1. Section 9-9-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
58 amended as follows:

59 9-9-1. (1) There shall be an inferior court to be known as
60 the county court in and for each of the following single county
61 districts:

62 Adams County;

63 Bolivar County;

64 DeSoto County;

65 Forrest County;

66 Hancock County;

67 Harrison County;

68 Hinds County;

69 Jackson County;

70 Jones County;

71 Lauderdale County;

72 Lee County;

73 Leflore County;

74 Lowndes County;

75 Madison County;
76 Pike County;
77 Rankin County;
78 Warren County;
79 Washington County; and
80 Yazoo County.

81 (2) There shall be an inferior court to be known as the
82 county court in and for each of the following multicounty
83 districts:

84 Alcorn and Prentiss Counties;
85 Coahoma and Tunica Counties;
86 Marshall, Benton and Tippah Counties;
87 Lafayette and Union Counties;
88 Holmes and Humphreys Counties;
89 Copiah, Claiborne and Jefferson Counties;
90 Lamar and Pearl River Counties;
91 Simpson, Smith and Covington Counties;
92 Jefferson Davis, Lawrence and Marion Counties;
93 Itawamba and Monroe Counties;
94 Tate and Panola Counties;
95 Grenada and Montgomery Counties; and
96 Oktibbeha and Winston Counties.

97 (3) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this
98 subsection, there shall be one (1) county court judge for each
99 county court district.

100 (b) There shall be two (2) county court judges for the
101 county court of Jackson County, two (2) county court judges for
102 the county court of Washington County, two (2) county court judges

103 for the county court of Madison County, three (3) county court
104 judges for the county court of Harrison County, and three (3)
105 county court judges for the county court of Hinds County.

106 SECTION 2. Section 9-9-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
107 amended as follows:

108 9-9-5. (1) The county judge shall possess all of the
109 qualifications of a circuit judge as prescribed by the Mississippi
110 Constitution. The county judge of a single county district must
111 be a qualified elector of the county. The county judge of a
112 multicounty district must be a qualified elector of any one (1) of
113 the counties comprising the district. Except as provided in
114 subsection (2) of this section, the county judge shall be elected
115 by the qualified electors of the county court district at the time
116 and in the manner as circuit judges are elected and * * * shall
117 hold office for the same term. Vacancies in the office of county
118 judge shall be filled in the same manner as vacancies in the
119 office of circuit judge.

120 (2) In a district having more than one (1) office of county
121 court judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
122 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
123 judge who has been for the longest time continuously a judge of
124 that court or, should no judge have served longer in office than
125 the others, the judge who has been for the longest time a member
126 of The Mississippi Bar shall be the senior judge. The senior
127 judge shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and, in
128 districts consisting of more than one (1) county, to set terms.

129 SECTION 3. The following shall be codified as Section 9-9-6,
130 Mississippi Code of 1972:

131 9-9-6. (1) Those county court judges elected to a term
132 beginning January 1, 1999, or appointed to fill a vacancy in such
133 a judgeship shall continue to serve in those positions until the
134 holder's death, resignation or disqualification, or upon
135 expiration of term.

136 (2) Candidates for the initial terms in the multicounty
137 districts shall have the qualifications prescribed in Section
138 9-9-5, and, notwithstanding the provisions of Section 23-15-977,
139 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall file their intent to be a
140 candidate and pay a fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) with the
141 State Board of Election Commissioners no later than September 1,
142 2000.

143 SECTION 4. Section 9-9-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
144 amended as follows:

145 9-9-11. * * * The county court judge shall receive an annual
146 salary payable monthly out of the State General Fund in the amount
147 of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) less than the annual salary
148 which is now or shall hereafter be provided for circuit and
149 chancery judges of this state * * *. The office of county court
150 judge * * * shall be a full-time position, and the holder thereof
151 shall not otherwise engage in the practice of law.

152 * * *

153 SECTION 5. Section 25-3-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
154 amended as follows:

155 25-3-25. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections
156 (2) through (9), the salaries of sheriffs of the various counties
157 are hereby fixed as full compensation for their services.

158 From and after October 1, 1997, the annual salary for each

159 sheriff shall be based upon the total population of his county
160 according to the latest federal decennial census in the following
161 categories and for the following amounts; however, no sheriff
162 shall be paid less than the salary authorized under this section
163 to be paid the sheriff based upon the population of the county
164 according to the 1990 federal decennial census:

165 (a) For counties with a total population of more than
166 two hundred thousand (200,000), a salary of Seventy-five Thousand
167 Dollars (\$75,000.00).

168 (b) For counties with a total population of more than
169 one hundred thousand (100,000) and not more than two hundred
170 thousand (200,000), a salary of Seventy Thousand Dollars
171 (\$70,000.00).

172 (c) For counties with a total population of more than
173 forty-five thousand (45,000) and not more than one hundred
174 thousand (100,000), a salary of Sixty-five Thousand Dollars
175 (\$65,000.00).

176 (d) For counties with a total population of more than
177 thirty-four thousand (34,000) and not more than forty-five
178 thousand (45,000), a salary of Sixty Thousand Dollars
179 (\$60,000.00).

180 (e) For counties with a total population of more than
181 twenty-five thousand (25,000) and not more than thirty-four
182 thousand (34,000), a salary of Fifty-two Thousand Dollars
183 (\$52,000.00).

184 (f) For counties with a total population of more than
185 fifteen thousand (15,000) and not more than twenty-five thousand
186 (25,000), a salary of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).

187 (g) For counties with a total population of more than
188 nine thousand five hundred (9,500) and not more than fifteen
189 thousand (15,000), a salary of Forty-seven Thousand Dollars
190 (\$47,000.00).

191 (h) For counties with a total population of more than
192 seven thousand five hundred (7,500) and not more than nine
193 thousand five hundred (9,500), a salary of Forty-five Thousand
194 Dollars (\$45,000.00).

195 (i) For counties with a total population of not more
196 than seven thousand five hundred (7,500), a salary of Forty-two
197 Thousand Dollars (\$42,000.00).

198 (2) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
199 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Leflore County may,
200 in its discretion, pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
201 county in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
202 (\$10,000.00). The Legislature finds and declares that the annual
203 supplement authorized by this subsection is justified in such
204 county for the following reasons:

205 (a) The Mississippi Department of Corrections operates
206 and maintains a restitution center within the county;

207 (b) The Mississippi Department of Corrections operates
208 and maintains a community work center within the county;

209 (c) There is a resident circuit court judge in the
210 county whose office is located at the Leflore County Courthouse;

211 (d) There is a resident chancery court judge in the
212 county whose office is located at the Leflore County Courthouse;

213 (e) The Magistrate for the Fourth Circuit Court
214 District is located in the county and maintains his office at the

215 Leflore County Courthouse;

216 (f) The Region VI Mental Health-Mental Retardation
217 Center, which serves a multicounty area, calls upon the sheriff to
218 provide security for out-of-town mental patients, as well as
219 patients from within the county;

220 (g) The increased activity of the Child Support
221 Division of the Department of Human Services in enforcing in the
222 courts parental obligations has imposed additional duties on the
223 sheriff; and

224 (h) The dispatchers of the enhanced E-911 system in
225 place in Leflore County has been placed under the direction and
226 control of the sheriff.

227 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
228 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Rankin County may, in
229 its discretion, pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
230 county in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
231 (\$10,000.00). The Legislature finds and declares that the annual
232 supplement authorized by this subsection is justified in such
233 county for the following reasons:

234 (a) The Mississippi Department of Corrections operates
235 and maintains the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility within
236 the county;

237 (b) The State Hospital is operated and maintained
238 within the county at Whitfield;

239 (c) Hudspeth Regional Center, a facility maintained for
240 the care and treatment of the mentally retarded, is located within
241 the county;

242 (d) The Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training

243 Academy is operated and maintained within the county;

244 (e) The State Fire Academy is operated and maintained
245 within the county;

246 (f) The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District,
247 ordinarily known as the "Reservoir District," is located within
248 the county;

249 (g) The Jackson International Airport is located within
250 the county;

251 (h) The patrolling of the state properties located
252 within the county has imposed additional duties on the sheriff;
253 and

254 (i) The sheriff, in addition to providing security to
255 the nearly one hundred thousand (100,000) residents of the county,
256 has the duty to investigate, solve and assist in the prosecution
257 of any misdemeanor or felony committed upon any state property
258 located in Rankin County.

259 (4) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
260 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Neshoba County shall
261 pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the county an amount
262 equal to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

263 (5) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
264 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Tunica County may, in
265 their discretion, pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
266 county an amount equal to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
267 payable beginning April 1, 1997.

268 (6) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
269 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Hinds County shall
270 pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the county in an amount

271 equal to Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00). The Legislature
272 finds and declares that the annual supplement authorized by this
273 subsection is justified in such county for the following reasons:

274 (a) Hinds County has the greatest population of any
275 county, two hundred fifty-four thousand four hundred forty-one
276 (254,441) by the 1990 census, being almost one hundred thousand
277 (100,000) more than the next most populous county;

278 (b) Hinds County is home to the state capitol and the
279 seat of all state government offices;

280 (c) Hinds County is the third largest county in
281 geographic area, containing eight hundred seventy-five (875)
282 square miles;

283 (d) Hinds County is comprised of two (2) judicial
284 districts, each having a courthouse and county office buildings;

285 (e) There are four (4) resident circuit judges, four
286 (4) resident chancery judges, and three (3) resident county judges
287 in Hinds County, the most of any county, with the sheriff acting
288 as chief executive officer and provider of bailiff services for
289 all;

290 (f) The main offices for the clerk and most of the
291 judges and magistrates for the United States District Court for
292 the Southern District of Mississippi are located within the
293 county;

294 (g) The state's only urban university, Jackson State
295 University, is located within the county;

296 (h) The University of Mississippi Medical Center,
297 combining the medical school, dental school, nursing school and
298 hospital, is located within the county;

299 (i) Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium, the state's
300 largest sports arena, is located within the county;

301 (j) The Mississippi State Fairgrounds, including the
302 Coliseum and Trade Mart, are located within the county;

303 (k) Hinds County has the largest criminal population in
304 the state, such that the Hinds County Sheriff's Department
305 operates the largest county jail system in the state, housing
306 almost one thousand (1,000) inmates in three (3) separate
307 detention facilities;

308 (l) The Hinds County Sheriff's Department handles more
309 mental and drug and alcohol commitments cases than any other
310 sheriff's department in the state;

311 (m) The Mississippi Department of Corrections maintains
312 a restitution center within the county;

313 (n) The Mississippi Department of Corrections regularly
314 houses as many as one hundred (100) state convicts within the
315 Hinds County jail system; and

316 (o) The Hinds County Sheriff's Department is regularly
317 asked to provide security services not only at the Fairgrounds and
318 Memorial Stadium, but also for events at the Mississippi Museum of
319 Art and Jackson City Auditorium.

320 (7) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
321 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Wilkinson County, in
322 its discretion, may pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
323 county in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
324 (\$10,000.00). The Legislature finds and declares that the annual
325 supplement authorized by this subsection is justified in such
326 county because the Mississippi Department of Corrections contracts

327 for the private incarceration of state inmates at a private
328 correctional facility within the county.

329 (8) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)
330 of this section, the Board of Supervisors of Marshall County, in
331 its discretion, may pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
332 county in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
333 (\$10,000.00). The Legislature finds and declares that the annual
334 supplement authorized by this subsection is justified in such
335 county because the Mississippi Department of Corrections contracts
336 for the private incarceration of state inmates at a private
337 correctional facility within the county.

338 (9) In addition to the salary provided in subsection (1) of
339 this section, the Board of Supervisors of Greene County, in its
340 discretion, may pay an annual supplement to the sheriff of the
341 county in an amount not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars
342 (\$10,000.00). The Legislature finds and declares that the annual
343 supplement authorized by this subsection is justified in such
344 county for the following reasons:

345 (a) The Mississippi Department of Corrections operates
346 and maintains the South Mississippi Correctional Facility within
347 the county;

348 (b) In 1996, additional facilities to house another one
349 thousand four hundred sixteen (1,416) male offenders were
350 constructed at the South Mississippi Correctional Facility within
351 the county; and

352 (c) The patrolling of the state properties located
353 within the county has imposed additional duties on the sheriff
354 justifying additional compensation.

355 (10) The salaries herein provided shall be payable monthly
356 on the first day of each calendar month by chancery clerk's
357 warrant drawn on the general fund of the county; however, the
358 board of supervisors, by resolution duly adopted and entered on
359 its minutes, may provide that such salaries shall be paid
360 semimonthly on the first and fifteenth day of each month. If a
361 pay date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, salary payments
362 shall be made on the workday immediately preceding the weekend or
363 legal holiday.

364 (11) The salary of a sheriff shall not be reduced during his
365 term of office as a result of a population decrease based upon the
366 1990 federal decennial census.

367 SECTION 6. Section 23-15-975, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
368 amended as follows:

369 23-15-975. As used in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985
370 of this subarticle, the term "judicial office" includes the office
371 of justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals,
372 circuit judge, chancellor and county court judge * * *. All such
373 justices and judges shall be full-time positions and such justices
374 and judges shall not engage in the practice of law before any
375 court, administrative agency or other judicial or quasi-judicial
376 forum except as provided by law for finalizing pending cases after
377 election to judicial office.

378 SECTION 7. Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
379 amended as follows:

380 23-15-977. * * * All candidates for judicial office as
381 defined in Section 23-15-975 of this subarticle shall file their
382 intent to be a candidate with the State Board of Election

383 Commissioners not later than the first Friday after the first
384 Monday in May prior to the general election for judicial office
385 and shall pay * * * the following amounts:

386 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of
387 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

388 (b) Candidates for circuit judge, county judge and
389 chancellor, the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

390 * * *

391 SECTION 8. Section 9-1-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
392 amended as follows:

393 9-1-19. The judges of the Supreme, * * * circuit and county
394 courts, and chancellors and judges of the Court of Appeals, in
395 termtime and in vacation, may severally order the issuance of
396 writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, supersedeas and
397 attachments, and grant injunctions and all other remedial writs,
398 in all cases where the same may properly be granted according to
399 right and justice, returnable to any court, whether the suit or
400 proceedings be pending in the district of the judge or chancellor
401 granting the same or not. The fiat of such judge or chancellor
402 shall authorize the issuance of the process for a writ returnable
403 to the proper court or before the proper officer; and all such
404 process or writs may be granted, issued and executed on Sunday.

405 SECTION 9. Section 9-1-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
406 amended as follows:

407 9-1-23. The judges of the Supreme, circuit and county courts
408 and chancellors and judges of the Court of Appeals shall be
409 conservators of the peace for the state, each with full power to
410 do all acts which conservators of the peace may lawfully do; and

411 the circuit judges, * * * chancellors and county judges shall
412 reside within their respective districts * * *.

413 SECTION 10. Section 9-1-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
414 amended as follows:

415 9-1-25. It shall not be lawful for any judge of the Supreme
416 Court, Court of Appeals or a judge of the circuit or county court,
417 or a chancellor to exercise the profession or employment of an
418 attorney or counsellor at law, or to be engaged in the practice of
419 law; and any person offending against this prohibition shall be
420 guilty of a high misdemeanor and be removed from office; but this
421 shall not prohibit a chancellor, * * * circuit judge, county judge
422 or a judge of the Court of Appeals from practicing in any of the
423 courts for a period of six (6) months from the time such judges or
424 chancellors assume office so far as to enable them to bring to a
425 conclusion cases actually pending when they were appointed or
426 elected in which such chancellor or judge was then employed, nor
427 shall a judge of the Supreme Court be hindered from appearing in
428 the courts of the United States in any case in which he was
429 engaged when he was appointed or elected judge.

430 SECTION 11. Section 9-1-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
431 amended as follows:

432 9-1-35. The clerk of the Supreme Court and of the Court of
433 Appeals, at the expense of the state, and the clerk of every
434 circuit, county and chancery court, at the expense of the county,
435 shall keep a seal, with the style of the court around the margin
436 and the image of an eagle in the center.

437 SECTION 12. Section 9-1-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
438 amended as follows:

439 9-1-36. (1) Each circuit judge, county judge and chancellor
440 shall receive an office operating allowance for the expenses of
441 operating the office of such judge, including retaining a law
442 clerk, legal research, stenographic help, stationery, stamps,
443 furniture, office equipment, telephone, office rent and other
444 items and expenditures necessary and incident to maintaining the
445 office of judge. Such allowance shall be paid only to the extent
446 of actual expenses incurred by any such judge as itemized and
447 certified by such judge to the Supreme Court and then in an amount
448 of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per annum; however, such
449 judge may expend sums in excess thereof from the compensation
450 otherwise provided for his office. No part of this expense or
451 allowance shall be used to pay an official court reporter for
452 services rendered to said court.

453 (2) In addition to the amounts provided for in subsection
454 (1), there is hereby created a separate office allowance fund for
455 the purpose of providing support staff to judges. This fund shall
456 be managed by the Administrative Office of Courts.

457 (3) Each judge who desires to employ support staff after
458 July 1, 1994, shall make application to the Administrative Office
459 of Courts by submitting to the Administrative Office of Courts, before July 1 each year,
460 a proposed personnel plan setting forth
461 what support staff is deemed necessary. Such plan may be
462 submitted by a single judge or by any combination of judges
463 desiring to share support staff. In the process of the
464 preparation of the plan, the judges, at their request, may receive
465 advice, suggestions, recommendations and other assistance from the
466 Administrative Office of Courts. The Administrative Office of

467 Courts must approve the positions, job descriptions and salaries
468 before the positions may be filled. The Administrative Office of
469 Courts shall not approve any plan which does not first require the
470 expenditure of the funds in the support staff fund for
471 compensation of any of the support staff before expenditure is
472 authorized of county funds for that purpose. Upon approval by the
473 Administrative Office of Courts, the judge or judges may appoint
474 the employees to the position or positions, and each employee so
475 appointed will work at the will and pleasure of the judge or
476 judges who appointed him but will be employees of the
477 Administrative Office of Courts. Upon approval by the
478 Administrative Office of Courts, the appointment of any support
479 staff shall be evidenced by the entry of an order on the minutes
480 of the court. When support staff is appointed jointly by two (2)
481 or more judges, the order setting forth any appointment shall be
482 entered on the minutes of each participating court.

483 (4) The Administrative Office of Courts shall develop and
484 promulgate minimum qualifications for the certification of court
485 administrators. Any court administrator appointed on or after
486 October 1, 1996, shall be required to be certified by the
487 Administrative Office of Courts.

488 (5) Support staff shall receive compensation pursuant to
489 personnel policies established by the Administrative Office of
490 Courts; however, from and after July 1, 1994, the Administrative
491 Office of Courts shall allocate from the support staff fund an
492 amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) per fiscal year
493 (July 1 through June 30) per judge for whom support staff is
494 approved for the funding of support staff assigned to a judge or

495 judges. Any employment pursuant to this subsection shall be
496 subject to the provisions of Section 25-1-53.

497 The Administrative Office of Courts may approve expenditure
498 from the fund for additional equipment for support staff appointed
499 pursuant to this section in any year in which the allocation per
500 judge is sufficient to meet the equipment expense after provision
501 for the compensation of the support staff.

502 (6) For the purposes of this section, the following terms
503 shall have the meaning ascribed herein unless the context clearly
504 requires otherwise:

505 (a) "Judges" means circuit judges, county judges and
506 chancellors, or any combination thereof;

507 (b) "Support staff" means court administrators, law
508 clerks, legal research assistants or secretaries, or any
509 combination thereof, but shall not mean school attendance
510 officers;

511 (c) "Compensation" means the gross salary plus all
512 amounts paid for benefits or otherwise as a result of employment
513 or as required by employment; provided, however, that only salary
514 earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited for
515 Public Employees' Retirement System purposes. Amounts paid for
516 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel
517 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement
518 purposes.

519 (7) Title to all tangible property, excepting stamps,
520 stationery and minor expendable office supplies, procured with
521 funds authorized by this section, shall be and forever remain in
522 the State of Mississippi to be used by the circuit judge or

523 chancellor during the term of his office and thereafter by his
524 successors.

525 (8) Any * * * judge * * * who did not have a primary office
526 provided by the county on March 1, 1988, shall be allowed an
527 additional Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per annum to defray
528 the actual expenses incurred by such judge * * * in maintaining an
529 office; however, any * * * judge * * * who had a primary office
530 provided by the county on March 1, 1988, and who vacated the
531 office space after such date for a legitimate reason, as
532 determined by the Department of Finance and Administration, shall
533 be allowed the additional office expense allowance provided under
534 this subsection.

535 (9) The Supreme Court, through the Administrative Office of
536 Courts, shall submit to the Department of Finance and
537 Administration the itemized and certified expenses for office
538 operating allowances that are directed to the court pursuant to
539 this section.

540 (10) The Supreme Court, through the Administrative Office of
541 Courts, shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations
542 regarding the administration of the office operating allowance
543 authorized pursuant to this section.

544 SECTION 13. Section 9-9-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
545 amended as follows:

546 9-9-19. There shall be a * * * court to be styled "The
547 County Court of the County of _____" * * * in each county of
548 a county court district as determined to be necessary by the
549 senior county court judge; but in counties where there are two (2)
550 judicial districts and in multicounty county court districts, the

551 county court shall be convened in each judicial district and in
552 each county not less than four (4) times each year.

553 * * *

554 SECTION 14. Section 9-9-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
555 amended as follows:

556 9-9-21. (1) The jurisdiction of the county court shall be
557 as follows: It shall have jurisdiction concurrent with the
558 justice court in all matters, civil and criminal of which the
559 justice court has jurisdiction; and it shall have jurisdiction
560 concurrent with the circuit and chancery courts in all matters of
561 law and equity wherein the amount of value of the thing in
562 controversy shall not exceed, exclusive of costs and interest, the
563 sum of Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), and the
564 jurisdiction of the county court shall not be affected by any
565 setoff, counterclaim or cross-bill in such actions where the
566 amount sought to be recovered in such setoff, counterclaim or
567 cross-bill exceeds Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00).
568 Provided, however, the party filing such setoff, counterclaim or
569 cross-bill which exceeds Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
570 (\$75,000.00) shall give notice to the opposite party or parties as
571 provided in Section 13-3-83, and on motion of all parties filed
572 within twenty (20) days after the filing of such setoff,
573 counterclaim or cross-bill, the county court shall transfer the
574 case to the circuit or chancery court wherein the county court is
575 situated and which would otherwise have jurisdiction. It shall
576 have exclusively the jurisdiction heretofore exercised by the
577 justice court in the following matters and causes: namely,
578 eminent domain, the partition of personal property, and actions of

579 unlawful entry and detainer, provided that the actions of eminent
580 domain and unlawful entry and detainer may be returnable and
581 triable before the judge of said court in vacation.

582 (2) In multicounty court districts, it shall be lawful for
583 such court sitting in one (1) county to act upon any and all
584 matters of which it has jurisdiction as provided by law arising in
585 the other county under the jurisdiction of said court.

586 SECTION 15. Section 9-9-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
587 amended as follows:

588 9-9-23. The county judge shall have power to issue writs,
589 and to try matters, of habeas corpus on application to him
590 therefor, or when made returnable before him by a superior judge.

591 He shall also have the power to order the issuance of writs of
592 certiorari, supersedeas, attachments, and other remedial writs in
593 all cases pending in, or within the jurisdiction of, his court.

594 He shall have the authority to issue search warrants in his
595 district returnable to his own court or to any court of a justice
596 court judge within his district in the same manner as is provided
597 by law for the issuance of search warrants by justice court

598 judges. In all cases pending in, or within the jurisdiction of,
599 his court, he shall have, in term time, and in vacation, the power
600 to order, do or determine to the same extent and in the same

601 manner as a justice court judge or a circuit judge or a chancellor
602 could do in term time or in vacation in such cases. But he shall
603 not have original power to issue writs of injunction, or other

604 remedial writs in equity or in law except in those cases
605 hereinabove specified as being within his jurisdiction. Provided,
606 however, that when any judge or chancellor authorized to issue

607 such writs of injunction, or any other equitable or legal remedial
608 writs hereinabove reserved, shall so direct in writing the hearing
609 of application therefor may be by him referred to the county
610 judge, in which event the said direction of the superior judge
611 shall vest in the said county judge all authority to take such
612 action on said application as the said superior judge could have
613 taken under the right and the law, had the said application been
614 at all times before the said superior judge. The jurisdiction
615 authorized under the foregoing proviso shall cease upon the
616 denying or granting of the application.

617 SECTION 16. Section 43-21-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
618 amended as follows:

619 43-21-107. (1) A youth court division is hereby created as
620 a division of the county court of each county now or hereafter
621 having a county court, and the county judge shall be the judge of
622 the youth court, unless another judge is named by the county judge
623 as provided by this chapter.

624 * * *

625 (2) A youth court division is hereby created as a division
626 of the chancery court of each county in which no county
627 court * * * is maintained and any chancellor within a chancery
628 court district shall be the judge of the youth court of that
629 county within such chancery court district unless another judge is
630 named by the senior chancellor of the county or chancery court
631 district as provided by this chapter.

632 * * *

633 SECTION 17. Section 43-21-111, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
634 amended as follows:

635 43-21-111. (1) In any county not having a county court or
636 family court the judge may appoint as provided in Section
637 43-21-123 youth court referees who shall be attorneys at law and
638 members of the bar in good standing to act in cases concerning
639 children within the jurisdiction of the youth court, and a youth
640 court referee shall hold office until removed by the judge. The
641 requirement that youth court referees appointed pursuant to this
642 subsection be attorneys shall apply only to youth court referees
643 who were not first appointed regular or special referees prior to
644 July 1, 1991.

645 (2) Any referee appointed pursuant to subsection (1) of this
646 section shall be required to receive judicial training approved by
647 the Mississippi Judicial College and shall be required to receive
648 regular annual continuing education in the field of juvenile
649 justice. The amount of judicial training and annual continuing
650 education which shall be satisfactory to fulfill the requirements
651 of this section shall conform with the amount prescribed by the
652 Rules and Regulations for Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education
653 promulgated by the Supreme Court. The Administrative Office of
654 Courts shall maintain a roll of referees appointed under this
655 section, shall enforce the provisions of this subsection and shall
656 maintain records on all such referees regarding such training.
657 Should a referee miss two (2) consecutive training sessions
658 sponsored or approved by the Mississippi Judicial College as
659 required by this subsection or fail to attend one (1) such
660 training session within six (6) months of their initial
661 appointment as a referee, the referee shall be disqualified to
662 serve and be immediately removed as a referee and another member

663 of the bar shall be appointed as provided in this section.

664 (3) The judge may direct that hearings in any case or class
665 of cases be conducted in the first instance by the referee. The
666 judge may also delegate his own administrative responsibilities to
667 the referee.

668 (4) All hearings authorized to be heard by a referee shall
669 proceed in the same manner as hearings before the youth court
670 judge. A referee shall possess all powers and perform all the
671 duties of the youth court judge in the hearings authorized to be
672 heard by the referee.

673 (5) An order entered by the referee shall be mailed
674 immediately to all parties and their counsel. A rehearing by the
675 judge shall be allowed if any party files a written motion for a
676 rehearing or on the court's own motion within three (3) days after
677 notice of referee's order. The youth court may enlarge the time
678 for filing a motion for a rehearing for good cause shown. Any
679 rehearing shall be upon the record of the hearing before the
680 referee, but additional evidence may be admitted in the discretion
681 of the judge. A motion for a rehearing shall not act as a
682 supersedeas of the referee's order, unless the judge shall so
683 order.

684 (6) The salary for the referee shall be based on a formula
685 established by the Administrative office of Courts which shall
686 take into account the youth court's case load. The salary for a
687 referee serving in one (1) county shall not exceed the salary of a
688 member of the board of supervisors of that county. The salary of
689 a referee serving two (2) or more counties shall not exceed an
690 amount equal to the combined salaries of any one (1) member of the

691 board of supervisors of the two (2) highest paid boards of
692 supervisors of the counties serviced by that referee.

693 (7) * * * The judge of the chancery court may appoint a
694 suitable person as referee to two (2) or more counties within his
695 district * * *.

696 SECTION 18. Section 43-21-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
697 amended as follows:

698 43-21-117. (1) The youth court prosecutor shall represent
699 the petitioner in all proceedings in the youth court.

700 (2) The county prosecuting attorney shall serve as the youth
701 court prosecutor; however, if funds are available pursuant to
702 Section 43-21-123, the court may designate, as provided in
703 subsection (3) of this section, a prosecutor or prosecutors in
704 lieu of or in addition to the county prosecuting attorney. * * *
705 The district attorney may participate in transfer proceedings.

706 (3) The judge may designate as provided in Section 43-21-123
707 some suitable attorney or attorneys to serve as youth court
708 prosecutor or prosecutors in lieu of or in conjunction with the
709 youth court prosecutor provided in subsection (2) of this section.
710 The designated youth court prosecutor or prosecutors shall be paid
711 a fee or salary fixed on order of the judge as provided in Section
712 43-21-123 and shall be paid by the county out of any available
713 funds budgeted for the youth court by the board of
714 supervisors * * *.

715 (4) All youth court prosecutors and county prosecuting
716 attorneys who serve as youth court prosecutors shall be required
717 to receive juvenile justice training from the Mississippi Attorney
718 General's office and regular annual continuing education in the

719 field of juvenile justice. The Mississippi Attorney General's
720 office shall determine the amount of juvenile justice training and
721 annual continuing education which shall be satisfactory to fulfill
722 the requirements of this subsection. The Administrative Office of
723 Courts shall maintain a roll of youth court prosecutors, shall
724 enforce the provisions of this subsection and shall maintain
725 records on all such youth court prosecutors regarding such
726 training. Should a youth court prosecutor miss two (2)
727 consecutive training sessions sponsored by the Mississippi
728 Attorney General's office as required by this subsection or fail
729 to attend one (1) such training session within six (6) months of
730 their designation as youth court prosecutor, the youth court
731 prosecutor shall be disqualified to serve and be immediately
732 removed from the office of youth court prosecutor and another
733 youth court prosecutor shall be designated.

734 SECTION 19. Section 43-21-123, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
735 amended as follows:

736 43-21-123. Except for expenses provided by state funds
737 and/or other monies, the board of supervisors * * * shall
738 adequately provide funds for the operation of the youth court
739 division of the chancery court in conjunction with the regular
740 chancery court budget, or the county * * * courts where said
741 courts are constituted. In preparation for said funding, on an
742 annual basis at the time requested, the youth court judge or
743 administrator shall prepare and submit to the board of
744 supervisors * * * an annual budget which will identify the number,
745 staff position, title and amount of annual or monthly compensation
746 of each position as well as provide for other expenditures

747 necessary to the functioning and operation of the youth court.
748 When the budget of the youth court or youth court judge is
749 approved by the board of supervisors * * *, then the youth court
750 or youth court judge may employ such persons as provided in the
751 budget from time to time.

752 The board of supervisors of any county in which there is
753 located a youth court * * * is authorized to reimburse the youth
754 court judges and other youth court employees or personnel for
755 reasonable travel and expenses incurred in the performance of
756 their duties and in attending educational meetings offering
757 professional training to such persons as budgeted.

758 SECTION 20. Section 9-13-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
759 amended as follows:

760 9-13-17. The circuit judge, chancellor * * * or county judge
761 may, by an order spread upon the minutes and made a part of the
762 records of the court, appoint an additional court reporter for a
763 term or part of a term whose duties, qualifications and
764 compensation shall be the same as is now provided by law for
765 official court reporters. The additional court reporter shall be
766 subject to the control of the judge or chancellor, as is now
767 provided by law for official court reporters, and the judge or
768 chancellor shall have the additional power to terminate the
769 appointment of such additional court reporter, whenever in his
770 opinion the necessity for such an additional court reporter ceases
771 to exist, by placing upon the minutes of the court an order to
772 that effect. The regular court reporter shall not draw any
773 compensation while the assistant court reporter alone is serving;
774 however, in the event the assistant court reporter is serving

775 because of the illness of the regular court reporter, the court
776 may authorize payment of said assistant court reporter from the
777 Administrative Office of Courts without diminution of the salary
778 of the regular court reporter, for a period not to exceed
779 forty-five (45) days in any one (1) calendar year. However, in
780 any circuit, chancery or county * * * court district within the
781 State of Mississippi, if the judge or chancellor shall determine
782 that in order to relieve the continuously crowded docket in such
783 district, or for other good cause shown, the appointment of an
784 additional court reporter is necessary for the proper
785 administration of justice, he may, with the advice and consent of
786 the board of supervisors if the court district is composed of a
787 single county and with the advice and consent of at least one-half
788 (1/2) of the boards of supervisors if the court district is
789 composed of more than one (1) county, by an order spread upon the
790 minutes and made a part of the records of the court, appoint an
791 additional court reporter. The additional court reporter shall
792 serve at the will and pleasure of the judge or chancellor, may be
793 a resident of any county of the state, and shall be paid a salary
794 designated by the judge or chancellor not to exceed the salary
795 authorized by Section 9-13-19. The salary of the additional court
796 reporter shall be paid by the Administrative Office of Courts, as
797 provided in Section 9-13-19; and mileage shall be paid to the
798 additional court reporter by the county as provided in the same
799 section. The office of such additional court reporter appointed
800 under this section shall not be abolished or compensation reduced
801 during the term of office of the appointing judge or chancellor
802 without the consent and approval of the appointing judge or

803 chancellor.

804 SECTION 21. Section 9-13-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
805 amended as follows:

806 9-13-61. There shall be an official court reporter for each
807 county * * * judge in the State of Mississippi, to be appointed by
808 such judge, for the purpose of performing the necessary and
809 required stenographic work of the court or division thereof over
810 which the appointing judge is presiding, said work to be performed
811 under the direction of such judge and in the same manner and to
812 the same effect as is provided in the chapter on court reporting.

813 * * * The reporters of said courts shall receive an annual
814 salary of not less than Twenty-four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00)
815 and may, at the discretion of the board or boards of supervisors,
816 receive a monthly salary equal to that of the reporter of the
817 circuit court district wherein the county lies, the same to be
818 paid monthly by the county out of its general fund, in a single
819 county court district, or by the counties out of their general
820 funds, in a multicounty court district.

821 * * *

822 SECTION 22. Section 9-9-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
823 provides for the establishment of a county court by agreement
824 between two (2) or more counties, is repealed.

825 SECTION 23. Section 9-9-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
826 restricts the practice of law by a county court judge, is
827 repealed.

828 SECTION 24. Section 9-9-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
829 authorizes the governing body of certain municipalities to
830 supplement the salaries of county judicial officers, is repealed.

831 SECTION 25. Section 9-9-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
832 authorizes two (2) county judgeships for Harrison County, is
833 repealed.

834 SECTION 26. Section 9-9-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
835 authorizes three (3) county judgeships for Hinds County, is
836 repealed.

837 SECTION 27. Section 9-9-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
838 authorizes two (2) county judgeships for Washington County, is
839 repealed.

840 SECTION 28. Section 9-9-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
841 authorizes two (2) county judgeships for Jackson County, is
842 repealed.

843 SECTION 29. Section 9-9-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
844 provides for the establishment or abolition of county courts, is
845 repealed.

846 SECTION 30. Section 9-9-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
847 provides for transfer of pending matters in any county court that
848 may be abolished, is repealed.

849 SECTION 31. Section 9-9-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
850 provides for the abolition of county courts in certain counties,
851 is repealed.

852 SECTION 32. Section 9-9-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
853 requires legislation action or election for abolition of county
854 courts in certain counties, is repealed.

855 SECTION 33. Section 9-9-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
856 requires the establishment or abolition of county courts under
857 certain circumstances, is repealed.

858 SECTION 34. All family courts are abolished from and after

859 January 1, 1998. All matters pending in any family court
860 abolished shall be transferred to the county court of the county
861 wherein the family court was located without the necessity for any
862 motion or order of court for such transfer.

863 SECTION 35. Section 43-21-159, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
864 amended as follows:

865 43-21-159. (1) When a person appears before a court other
866 than the youth court, and it is determined that the person is a
867 child under jurisdiction of the youth court, such court * * *,
868 unless the jurisdiction of the offense has been transferred to
869 such court as provided in this chapter, or unless the child has
870 previously been the subject of a transfer from the youth court to
871 the circuit court for trial as an adult and was convicted, shall
872 immediately dismiss the proceeding without prejudice and forward
873 all documents pertaining to the cause to the youth court; and all
874 entries in permanent records shall be expunged. The youth court
875 shall have the power to order and supervise the expunction or the
876 destruction of such records in accordance with Section 43-21-265.

877 The youth court is authorized to expunge the record of any case
878 within its jurisdiction in which an arrest was made, the person
879 arrested was released and the case was dismissed or the charges
880 were dropped or there was no disposition of such case. In cases
881 where the child is charged with a hunting or fishing violation or
882 a traffic violation, except for driving offenses under the
883 Mississippi Implied Consent Law, whether it be any state or
884 federal law, * * * or municipal ordinance or county resolution or
885 where the child is charged with a violation of Section 67-3-70,
886 the appropriate criminal court may proceed to dispose of the same

887 in the same manner as for other * * * offenders and it shall not
888 be necessary to transfer the case to the youth court of the
889 county. The youth court, in addition to other action, may suspend
890 the driver's license of any child charged with an offense under
891 the Mississippi Implied Consent Law. Unless the cause has been
892 transferred, or unless the child has previously been the subject
893 of a transfer from the youth court to the circuit court for trial
894 as an adult * * * and was convicted, the youth court shall have
895 power on its own motion to remove jurisdiction from any criminal
896 court of any offense including a hunting or fishing violation, a
897 traffic violation, or a violation of Section 67-3-70, committed by
898 a child in a matter under the jurisdiction of the youth court and
899 proceed therewith in accordance with the provisions of this
900 chapter.

901 (2) After conviction and sentence of any child by any other
902 court having original jurisdiction on a misdemeanor charge, and
903 within the time allowed for an appeal of such conviction and
904 sentence, the youth court of the county shall have the full power
905 to stay the execution of the sentence and to release the child on
906 good behavior or on other order as the youth court may see fit to
907 make unless the child has previously been the subject of a
908 transfer from the youth court to the circuit court for trial as an
909 adult and was convicted. When a child is convicted of a
910 misdemeanor and is committed to, incarcerated in or imprisoned in
911 a jail or other place of detention by a criminal court having
912 proper jurisdiction of such charge, such court shall notify the
913 youth court judge or the judge's designee of the conviction and
914 sentence prior to the commencement of such incarceration. The

915 youth court shall have the power to order and supervise the
916 destruction of any records involving children maintained by the
917 criminal court in accordance with Section 43-21-265. However, the
918 youth court shall have the power to set aside a judgment of any
919 other court rendered in any matter over which the youth court has
920 exclusive original jurisdiction, to expunge or destroy the records
921 thereof in accordance with Section 43-21-265, and to order a
922 refund of fines and costs.

923 (3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) shall apply to a youth
924 who has a pending charge or a conviction for any crime over which
925 circuit court has original jurisdiction.

926 (4) In any case wherein the defendant is a child as defined
927 in this chapter and of which the circuit court has original
928 jurisdiction, the circuit judge, upon a finding that it would be
929 in the best interest of such child and in the interest of justice,
930 may at any stage of the proceedings prior to the attachment of
931 jeopardy transfer such proceedings to the youth court for further
932 proceedings unless the child has previously been the subject of a
933 transfer from the youth court to the circuit court for trial as an
934 adult and was convicted or has previously been convicted of a
935 crime which was in original circuit court jurisdiction, and the
936 youth court shall, upon acquiring jurisdiction, proceed as
937 provided in this chapter for the adjudication and disposition of
938 delinquent child proceeding proceedings. If the case is not
939 transferred to the youth court and the youth is convicted of a
940 crime by any circuit court, the trial judge shall sentence the
941 youth as though such youth was an adult. The circuit court shall
942 not have the authority to commit such child to the custody of the

943 Department of Youth Services for placement in a state-supported
944 training school.

945 (5) In no event shall a court sentence an offender over the
946 age of eighteen (18) to the custody of the Division of Youth
947 Services for placement in a state-supported training school.

948 (6) When a child's driver's license is suspended by the
949 youth court for any reason, the clerk of the youth court shall
950 report the suspension, without a court order under Section
951 43-21-261, to the Commissioner of Public Safety in the same manner
952 as such suspensions are reported in cases involving adults.

953 (7) No offense involving the use or possession of a firearm
954 by a child who has reached his fifteenth birthday and which, if
955 committed by an adult would be a felony, shall be transferred to
956 the youth court.

957 SECTION 36. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
958 is hereby directed to submit this act, immediately upon approval
959 by the Governor, or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to
960 a veto, to the Attorney General of the United States or to the
961 United States District Court for the District of Columbia in
962 accordance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
963 as amended and extended.

964 SECTION 37. Section 3 of this act shall take effect and be
965 in force from and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5
966 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, and the
967 remainder of this act shall take effect on that date or on January
968 1, 2001, whichever is later.