

By: Bailey

To: Juvenile Justice;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1294

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO CONSTRUCT
2 AND EQUIP A CORRECTIONAL CENTER FOR HOUSING JUVENILE OFFENDERS; TO
3 REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO APPLY FOR BLOCK GRANT
4 FUNDS TO HELP CONSTRUCT AND EQUIP THE JUVENILE CORRECTION CENTER
5 AND TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO ASSIST JUVENILE OFFENDERS; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. The Department of Corrections (department) shall
9 select a suitable site for a nine-county regional Juvenile
10 Correctional Center not to exceed six hundred (600) beds. The
11 department shall construct and equip housing and support
12 facilities for six hundred (600) area juvenile offenders who are
13 under eighteen (18) years of age. The department shall submit an
14 application for a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant
15 (JAIBG) to the United States Department of Justice, Office of
16 Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
17 Prevention, for funding to construct and equip the facility for
18 juvenile offenders. The Juvenile Correction Center shall be
19 operated as a pilot project.

20 SECTION 2. (1) A special fund designated as the "2000
21 Regional Juvenile Correction Centers Construction Fund" shall be
22 created within the State Treasury. The fund shall be maintained
23 by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund, separate
24 and apart from the General Fund of the state. Unexpended amounts
25 remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not
26 lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on
27 investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to
28 the credit of the fund, funds may not be used or expended for any

29 purpose except as authorized under this act.

30 (2) Monies deposited into the fund shall be expended, upon
31 appropriation by the Legislature, to pay a portion of the costs of
32 constructing regional juvenile correctional centers throughout the
33 state. The portion of the costs of construction may be used as
34 matching funds for the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block
35 Grant (JAIBG), as provided under Title III of H.R. 3, United
36 States House-passed Juvenile Accountability Block Grants Act of
37 1997.

38 (3) JAIBG funds may be used to develop programs in the
39 following thirteen (13) program purpose areas established by
40 Congress:

41 (a) To build, expand, renovate, or operate temporary or
42 permanent juvenile correction or detention centers, including
43 training of correctional personnel;

44 (b) To develop and administer accountability-based
45 sanctions for juvenile offenders;

46 (c) To hire additional judges, probation officers, and
47 court-appointed defenders, and to fund pretrial services for
48 juveniles, to ensure the efficient and expeditious administration
49 of the juvenile justice system;

50 (d) To hire additional prosecutors so that more cases
51 involving violent juvenile offenders can be prosecuted and
52 backlogs reduced;

53 (e) To provide funds that help prosecutors to address
54 drugs, gangs, and youth violence problems more effectively;

55 (f) To provide funds for technology, equipment and
56 training to assist prosecutors in identifying and expediting the
57 prosecution of violent juvenile offenders;

58 (g) To provide funds that enable juvenile courts and
59 juvenile probation officers to be more effective and efficient in
60 holding juvenile offenders accountable and reducing recidivism;

61 (h) To establish juvenile gun courts for the
62 adjudication and prosecution of juvenile firearm offenders;

63 (i) To establish drug court programs for juveniles that
64 provide continuous supervision over juvenile offenders with
65 substance abuse problems and that provide the integrated

66 administration of other sanctions and services;

67 (j) To establish and maintain interagency
68 information-sharing programs that enable the juvenile and criminal
69 justice systems, schools, and social service agencies to make
70 informed decisions regarding the early identification, control,
71 supervision, and treatment of juveniles who repeatedly commit
72 serious, delinquent or criminal acts;

73 (k) To establish vocational type projects that
74 integrate academic related job skills training, independent life
75 skills, conflict-resolution and therapeutic program
76 rehabilitation;

77 (l) To establish and maintain accountability-based
78 programs that juvenile offenders are referred to by law
79 enforcement agencies or programs that are designed, in cooperation
80 with law enforcement officials, to protect students and school
81 personnel from drugs, gangs, and youth violence; and

82 (m) To implement a policy of controlled substance
83 testing for appropriate categories of juveniles within the
84 juvenile justice system.

85 SECTION 3. Other than a maximum of ten percent (10%) of
86 funds set aside for administration, not less than forty-five
87 percent (45%) of total JAIBG funds must be allocated for program
88 purpose areas identified in subsection (3)(c) through (i) of
89 Section 2 of this act and not less than thirty-five percent (35%)
90 must be allocated for program areas identified in subsection
91 (3)(a), (b) and (j) of Section 2 of this act. This distribution
92 formula must be followed unless the state or local government
93 certifies that the interest of public safety and juvenile crime
94 control would be better served by expending the funds in another
95 proportion.

96 SECTION 4. The pilot project will involve the following
97 counties: Washington, Bolivar, Sunflower, Leflore, Grenada,
98 Carroll, Humphreys, Yazoo, Sharkey and Issaquena. These counties

99 will represent nine (9) correctional districts. The other
100 districts will consist of eight (8) counties per district, which
101 will provide representation for all eighty-two (82) counties of
102 the state. The pilot project shall be located in Washington
103 County, Mississippi.

104 SECTION 5. The following departments of the state shall
105 render physical, moral and financial support to the pilot project:
106 the Department of Human Services, the Department of Education,
107 the Department of Economic and Community Development and the
108 Department of Mental Health.

109 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from
110 and after July 1, 2000.