

By: Simpson

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC  
2 DEFENDERS SYSTEM TASK FORCE TO MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE  
3 EXISTING PUBLIC DEFENDER LAW IN MISSISSIPPI; TO EXAMINE AND STUDY  
4 APPROACHES TAKEN IN OTHER STATES REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND  
5 COST OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC DEFENDER SYSTEMS; TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS  
6 FOR ACTION BY THE LEGISLATURE TO STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
7 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT PUBLIC DEFENDERS AND CIRCUIT JUDGES;  
8 TO ANALYZE DISTRICT NEEDS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK FORCE SHALL  
9 MAKE A REPORT OF ITS WORK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
12 THEREIN,

13 (1) There is created the Mississippi Public Defender Task  
14 Force which shall be composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

15 (a) The President of the Mississippi Public Defender  
16 Association, or his designee;

17 (b) The President of the Mississippi Prosecutors  
18 Association, or his designee;

19 (c) A representative of the Administrative Office of  
20 Courts;

21 (d) A representative of the Mississippi Supreme Court;

22 (e) A representative of the Conference of Circuit  
23 Judges;

24 (f) A representative of the Mississippi Attorney  
25 General's Office;

26 (g) A representative of the Mississippi Association of  
27 Supervisors;

28 (h) The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or  
29 his designee;

30           (i) The Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, or  
31 his designee;

32           (j) The Chairman of the House Judiciary En Banc  
33 Committee, or his designee;

34           (k) The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee,  
35 or his designee.

36           (2) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a  
37 chairman and vice chairman from its membership and shall adopt  
38 rules for transacting its business and keeping records.

39           (3) The duties of the task force shall be to:

40           (a) Make a comprehensive study of the needs by circuit  
41 court districts for state-supported indigent defense counsel,  
42 examining existing public defender programs. This report shall be  
43 provided to the Legislature by July 1, 2001.

44           (b) Examine and study approaches taken by other states  
45 in the implementation and costs of state-supported indigent  
46 criminal cases.

47           (c) To study the relationship between presiding circuit  
48 court judges and the appointment of criminal indigent defense  
49 counsel.