

By: Thames

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2466

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:[CRG1]

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..... \$104,900.00
- 11 Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court..... 102,900.00
- 12 Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, each..... 102,300.00

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 June 17, 1999, shall receive a sum sufficient when added to the
27 present salaries of the justices to aggregate One Hundred Four
28 Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$104,900.00) for the Chief Justice,
29 One Hundred Two Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$102,900.00) for
30 the Presiding Justice, and One Hundred Two Thousand Three Hundred
31 Dollars (\$102,300.00) for Associate Justices, per annum. As each
32 existing term expires and the above-captioned salaries become
33 effective in due course, the extra duties and compensation
34 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..... \$ 98,300.00
38 Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals, each..... 95,500.00

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

41 Chancery Judges, each..... \$94,700.00
42 Circuit Judges, each..... 94,700.00

43 In addition to their present official duties, there are
44 imposed upon the chancery and circuit court judges the extra
45 duties of making a special study of existing laws relating to
46 trial courts and reporting to the Supreme Court of the State of
47 Mississippi such constructive suggestions as they may deem
48 necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice,
49 which shall be recommended to the Legislature by the Supreme Court
50 in the manner provided by law. The judges shall advise and
51 supervise in the purchase of law books for the libraries of each
52 district, and shall study and evaluate the inventory of books and

53 facilities now existing in the libraries of each district to
54 effect the removal and relocation of obsolete publications so as
55 to provide additional space for those books and current
56 publications more frequently used. The judges shall study the
57 existing rules promulgated by the circuit and chancery court
58 judicial associations governing the operation of chancery and
59 circuit courts, and revise the same pursuant to existing laws.
60 For such extra services each judge, from and after June 17, 1999,
61 shall receive a sum sufficient when added to the present salaries
62 of the judges to aggregate Ninety-four Thousand Seven Hundred
63 Dollars (\$94,700.00) per annum for each judge. Upon the
64 expiration of the existing term, the above-captioned salaries
65 become effective in due course, and the extra duties and
66 compensation provided for shall cease.

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

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

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

81 (\$50,000) on July 1, 2000.

82 (b) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
83 have actively practiced law for more than two (2) years, but less
84 than six (6) years, shall not exceed Sixty-seven Thousand Five
85 Hundred Dollars (\$67,500.00), as established by the district
86 attorney.

87 (c) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
88 have actively practiced law for more than six (6) years, but less
89 than ten (10) years, shall not exceed Seventy-five Thousand
90 Dollars (\$75,000.00), as established by the district attorney.

91 (d) The annual salary of full-time legal assistants who
92 have actively practiced law in excess of ten (10) years shall not
93 be less than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) and may,
94 in the discretion of the district attorney, include an additional
95 amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each year the legal
96 assistant has practiced law in excess of ten (10) years; provided,
97 the total salary of the legal assistant shall not exceed
98 Eighty-five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00).

99 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
100 and after July 1, 2000.