

By: Thames

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2636

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-13-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE ANNUAL SALARY OF COURT REPORTERS FOR CIRCUIT AND
3 CHANCERY COURTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 9-13-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:[JMR1]

7 9-13-19. (1) Court reporters for circuit and chancery
8 courts shall be paid an annual salary of Forty-three Thousand
9 Dollars (\$43,000.00) payable by the Administrative Office of
10 Courts. In addition, any court reporter performing the duties of
11 a court administrator in the same judicial district in which the
12 person is employed as a court reporter may be paid additional
13 compensation for performing the court administrator duties. The
14 annual amount of the additional compensation shall be set by vote
15 of the judges and chancellors for whom the court administrator
16 duties are performed, with consideration given to the number of
17 hours per month devoted by the court reporter to performing the
18 duties of a court administrator. The additional compensation
19 shall be submitted to the Administrative Office of Courts for
20 approval.

21 (2) The several counties in each respective court district

22 shall transfer from the general funds of those county treasuries
23 to the Administrative Office of Courts a proportionate amount to
24 be paid toward the annual compensation of the court reporter,
25 including any additional compensation paid for the performance of
26 court administrator duties. The amount to be paid by each county
27 shall be determined by the number of weeks in which court is held
28 in each county in proportion to the total number of weeks court is
29 held in the district. For purposes of this section, the term
30 "compensation" means the gross salary plus all amounts paid for
31 benefits, or otherwise, as a result of employment or as required
32 by employment, but does not include transcript fees otherwise
33 authorized to be paid by or through the counties. However, only
34 salary earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited
35 for retirement purposes. Amounts paid for transcript fees,
36 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel
37 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement
38 purposes.

39 For example, if there are thirty-eight (38) scheduled court
40 weeks in a particular district, a county in which court is
41 scheduled five (5) weeks out of the year would have to pay
42 five-thirty-eighths ($5/38$) of the total annual compensation.

43 (3) The salary and any additional compensation for the
44 performance of court administrator duties shall be paid in twelve
45 (12) installments on the last working day of each month after it
46 has been duly authorized by the appointing judge or chancellor and
47 an order duly placed on the minutes of the court. Each county
48 shall transfer to the Administrative Office of Courts one-twelfth
49 ($1/12$) of the amount required to be paid pursuant to subsection
50 (2) of this section by the twentieth day of each month for the
51 salary that is to be paid on the last working day of the month.
52 The Administrative Office of Courts shall pay to the court

53 reporter the total amount of salary due for that month. Any
54 county may pay, in the discretion of the board of supervisors, by
55 the twentieth day of January of any year, the amount due for a
56 full twelve (12) months.

57 (4) From and after October 1, 1996, all circuit and chancery
58 court reporters will be employees of the Administrative Office of
59 Courts.

60 (5) No circuit or chancery court reporter shall be entitled
61 to any compensation for any special or extended term of court
62 after passage of this section.

63 (6) No chancery or circuit court reporter shall practice law
64 in the court within which he or she is the court reporter.

65 (7) For all travel required in the performance of official
66 duties, the circuit or chancery court reporter shall be paid
67 mileage by the county in which the duties were performed at the
68 same rate as provided for state employees in Section 25-3-41. The
69 court reporter shall file in the office of the clerk of the court
70 which he serves a certificate of mileage expense incurred during
71 that term and payment of such expense to the court reporter shall
72 be paid on allowance by the judge of such court.

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