Adopted AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

Senate Bill NO. 2537

By Representative(s) Committee

39	Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
40	in lieu thereof the following:
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42	SECTION 1. Sections 1 through 18 of this act may be cited as
43	the "Mississippi Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Act."
44	SECTION 2. There is created the Mississippi Office of
45	Capital Post-Conviction Counsel. This office shall consist of
46	three (3) attorneys, one (1) investigator, one (1) fiscal officer
47	and one (1) secretary/paralegal. One of those attorneys shall
48	serve as director of the office. The director shall be appointed
49	by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the approval of a
50	majority of the justices voting, for a term of four (4) years, or
51	until a successor takes office. The remaining attorneys and other
52	staff shall be appointed by the director of the office and shall
53	serve at the will and pleasure of the director. The director and
54	all other attorneys in the office shall be active members of The
55	Mississippi Bar and shall meet all qualifications necessary to
56	serve as post-conviction counsel for persons under a sentence of
57	death. The director may be removed from office by the Chief
58	Justice upon finding that the director is not qualified under law
59	to serve as post-conviction counsel for persons under sentences of
50	death, has failed to perform the duties of the office or has acted
51	beyond the scope of the authority granted by law for the office.

62 SECTION 3. The Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel is created for the purpose of providing representation to indigent 63 64 parties under sentences of death in post-conviction proceedings, and to perform such other duties as set forth by law. 65 66 SECTION 4. The Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel 67 shall limit its activities to the representation of inmates under 68 sentence of death in post-conviction proceedings and ancillary 69 matters related directly to post-conviction review of their convictions and sentences and other activities explicitly 70 71 authorized in statute. Representation by the office or by private 72 counsel under appointment by the office will end upon the filing of proceeding for federal habeas corpus review or for appointment 73 74 of counsel to represent the defendant in federal habeas corpus 75 proceedings. However, the office may continue representation if 76 the office or a staff attorney employed by the office shall be 77 appointed by a federal court to represent the inmate in federal 78 habeas corpus proceedings. In such event, the office or the 79 employee attorney shall apply to the federal court for 80 compensation and expenses and shall upon receipt of payments by 81 the federal court pay all sums received over to the office for 82 deposit in the Special Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund as 83 provided in Section 9 of this act, from which all expenses for investigation and litigation shall be disbursed. Representation 84 85 in post-conviction proceedings shall further include representation of the inmate from the exhaustion of all state and 86 federal post-conviction litigation until execution of the sentence 87 or an adjudication resulting in either a new trial or a vacation 88 89 of the death sentence. The attorneys appointed to serve in the 90 Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel shall devote their entire time to the duties of the office, shall not represent any 91 92 persons in other litigation, civil or criminal, nor in any other way engage in the practice of law, and shall in no manner, 93 directly or indirectly, participate in the trial of any person 94 charged with capital murder or direct appeal of any person under 95 96 sentence of death in the state, nor engage in lobbying activities

97 for or against the death penalty. Any violation of this provision

98 shall be grounds for termination from employment, in the case of

- 99 the director, by the Chief Justice, and in the case of other
- 100 attorneys, by the director, with approval of the Chief Justice.
- 101 <u>SECTION 5.</u> The director appointed under this act shall be
- 102 compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by statute
- 103 for a district attorney, and other attorneys in the office shall
- 104 be compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by
- 105 statute for an assistant district attorney.
- 106 <u>SECTION 6.</u> The Director of the Office of Post-Conviction
- 107 Counsel shall keep the office open Monday through Friday for not
- 108 less than eight (8) hours each day.
- 109 <u>SECTION 7.</u> In addition to the authority to represent persons
- 110 under sentence of death in state post-conviction proceedings, the
- 111 director is hereby empowered to pay and disburse salaries,
- 112 employment benefits and charges relating to employment of staff
- 113 and to establish their salaries, and expenses of the office; to
- 114 incur and pay travel expenses of staff necessary for the
- 115 performance of the duties of the office; to rent or lease on such
- 116 terms as he may think proper such office space as is necessary in
- 117 the City of Jackson to accommodate the staff; to solicit and
- 118 accept monies, gifts, grants or services from any public or
- 119 private sources for the purpose of funding, operating and
- 120 executing the statutory duties of the office; to enter into and
- 121 perform contracts, including but not limited to, contracts and
- 122 agreements necessary to obtain and receive monies, gifts, grants
- 123 or services from federal, public and private sources, and to
- 124 purchase such necessary office supplies and equipment as may be
- 125 needed for the proper administration of said offices; and to incur
- 126 and pay such other expenses as are appropriate and customary to
- 127 the operations of the office. The director shall be required to
- 128 obtain a surety bond in the amount of not less than One Hundred
- 129 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) payable to the state. The cost of
- 130 such bond shall be paid out of funds appropriated for the
- 131 operations of the office. All salaries and other expenditures

132 shall be paid from funds appropriated for such purposes augmented

133 by funds received as gifts and grants from public and private

134 sources.

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SECTION 8. The director shall, as prescribed by the Chief Justice, keep a docket of all death penalty cases originating in the courts of Mississippi, which must at all reasonable times be open to the inspection of the public and must show the county, district and court in which the causes have been instituted. The director shall prepare and maintain a roster of all death penalty cases originating in the courts of Mississippi and pending in state and federal courts indicating the current status of each such case, and a history of those death penalty cases filed since 1976. Copies of such dockets and rosters shall be submitted to the Supreme Court in such format and with such appropriate information and as frequently as the Chief Justice may direct. The director shall also report monthly to the Chief Justice the

activities, receipts and expenditures of the office.

SECTION 9. If, at any time during the representation of two (2) or more defendants, the director determines that the interest of those persons are so adverse or hostile that they cannot all be represented by the director or his staff without conflict of interest, or if the director shall determine that the volume or number of representations shall so require, the director, in his sole discretion, not withstanding any statute or regulation to the contrary, shall be authorized to employ qualified private counsel. Fees and expenses, approved by order of the appropriate court, including investigative and expert witness expenses of such private counsel shall be paid from funds appropriated to a Special Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund for this purpose, which fund is hereby created. Monies in this fund shall not lapse into the General Fund at the end of a fiscal year but shall remain in the fund and any interest which accrues to the fund shall remain in the fund.

SECTION 10. The director is further authorized to solicit

and accept monies, gifts, grants or services from any public or

- 167 private source, for the purpose of funding, operating and
- 168 executing the duties of the office.
- SECTION 11. Section 99-19-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 170 amended as follows:
- 171 99-19-105. (1) Whenever the death penalty is imposed, and
- 172 upon the judgment becoming final in the trial court, the sentence
- 173 shall be reviewed on the record by the Mississippi Supreme Court.
- 174 The clerk of the trial court, within ten (10) days after receiving
- 175 the transcript, shall transmit the entire record and transcript to
- 176 the Mississippi Supreme Court together with a notice prepared by
- 177 the clerk and a report prepared by the trial judge. The notice
- 178 shall set forth the title and docket number of the case, the name
- 179 of the defendant and the name and address of his attorney, a
- 180 narrative statement of the judgment, the offense, and the
- 181 punishment prescribed. The report shall be in the form of a
- 182 standard questionnaire prepared and supplied by the Mississippi
- 183 Supreme Court, a copy of which shall be served upon counsel for
- 184 the state and counsel for the defendant.
- 185 (2) The Mississippi Supreme Court shall consider the
- 186 punishment as well as any errors enumerated by way of appeal.
- 187 (3) With regard to the sentence, the court shall determine:
- 188 (a) Whether the sentence of death was imposed under the
- 189 influence of passion, prejudice or any other arbitrary factor;
- 190 (b) Whether the evidence supports the jury's or judge's
- 191 finding of a statutory aggravating circumstance as enumerated in
- 192 Section 99-19-101;
- 193 (c) Whether the sentence of death is excessive or
- 194 disproportionate to the penalty imposed in similar cases,
- 195 considering both the crime and the defendant; and
- 196 (d) Should one or more of the aggravating circumstances
- 197 be found invalid on appeal, the Mississippi Supreme Court shall
- 198 determine whether the remaining aggravating circumstances are
- 199 outweighed by the mitigating circumstances or whether the
- 200 inclusion of any invalid circumstance was harmless error, or both.
- 201 (4) Both the defendant and the state shall have the right to

- 202 submit briefs within the time provided by the court, and to
- 203 present oral argument to the court.
- 204 (5) The court shall include in its decision a reference to
- 205 those similar cases which it took into consideration. In addition
- 206 to its authority regarding correction of errors, the court, with
- 207 regard to review of death sentences, shall be authorized to:
- 208 (a) Affirm the sentence of death;
- 209 (b) Reweigh the remaining aggravating circumstances
- 210 against the mitigating circumstances should one or more of the
- 211 aggravating circumstances be found to be invalid, and (i) affirm
- 212 the sentence of death or (ii) hold the error in the sentence phase
- 213 harmless error and affirm the sentence of death or (iii) remand
- 214 the case for a new sentencing hearing; or
- 215 (c) Set the sentence aside and remand the case for
- 216 modification of the sentence to imprisonment for life.
- 217 (6) The sentence review shall be in addition to direct
- 218 appeal, if taken, and the review and appeal shall be consolidated
- 219 for consideration. The court shall render its decision on legal
- 220 errors enumerated, the factual substantiation of the verdict, and
- 221 the validity of the sentence.
- 222 * * *
- SECTION 12. Section 99-39-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 224 amended as follows:
- 225 99-39-5. (1) Any prisoner in custody under sentence of a
- 226 court of record of the State of Mississippi who claims:
- 227 (a) That the conviction or the sentence was imposed in
- 228 violation of the Constitution of the United States or the
- 229 Constitution or laws of Mississippi;
- 230 (b) That the trial court was without jurisdiction to
- 231 impose sentence;
- 232 (c) That the statute under which the conviction and/or
- 233 sentence was obtained is unconstitutional;
- 234 (d) That the sentence exceeds the maximum authorized by
- 235 law;
- 236 (e) That there exists evidence of material facts, not

- 237 previously presented and heard, that requires vacation of the
- 238 conviction or sentence in the interest of justice;
- 239 (f) That his plea was made involuntarily;
- 240 (g) That his sentence has expired; his probation,
- 241 parole or conditional release unlawfully revoked; or he is
- 242 otherwise unlawfully held in custody;
- 243 (h) That he is entitled to an out-of-time appeal; or
- 244 (i) That the conviction or sentence is otherwise
- 245 subject to collateral attack upon any grounds of alleged error
- 246 heretofore available under any common law, statutory or other
- 247 writ, motion, petition, proceeding or remedy; may file a motion to
- 248 vacate, set aside or correct the judgment or sentence, or for an
- 249 out-of-time appeal.
- 250 (2) A motion for relief under this chapter shall be made
- 251 within three (3) years after the time in which the prisoner's
- 252 direct appeal is ruled upon by the Supreme Court of Mississippi
- or, in case no appeal is taken, within three (3) years after the
- 254 time for taking an appeal from the judgment of conviction or
- 255 sentence has expired, or in case of a guilty plea, within three
- 256 (3) years after entry of the judgment of conviction. Excepted
- 257 from this three-year statute of limitations are those cases in
- 258 which the prisoner can demonstrate either that there has been an
- 259 intervening decision of the Supreme Court of either the State of
- 260 Mississippi or the United States which would have actually
- 261 adversely affected the outcome of his conviction or sentence or
- 262 that he has evidence, not reasonably discoverable at the time of
- 263 trial, which is of such nature that it would be practically
- 264 conclusive that had such been introduced at trial it would have
- 265 caused a different result in the conviction or sentence. Likewise
- 266 excepted are those cases in which the prisoner claims that his
- 267 sentence has expired or his probation, parole or conditional
- 268 release has been unlawfully revoked. Likewise excepted are
- 269 <u>filings for post-conviction relief in capital cases which shall be</u>
- 270 <u>made within one (1) year after conviction.</u>
- 271 (3) This motion is not a substitute for, nor does it affect,

- 272 any remedy incident to the proceeding in the trial court, or
- 273 direct review of the conviction or sentence.
- 274 (4) Proceedings under this chapter shall be subject to the
- 275 provisions of Section 99-19-42.
- SECTION 13. Section 99-39-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 277 amended as follows:
- 278 99-39-23. (1) If an evidentiary hearing is required the
- 279 judge may appoint counsel for a petitioner who qualifies for the
- 280 appointment of counsel under Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of
- 281 1972.
- 282 (2) The hearing shall be conducted as promptly as
- 283 practicable, having regard for the need of counsel for both
- 284 parties for adequate time for investigation and preparation.
- 285 (3) The parties shall be entitled to subpoena witnesses and
- 286 compel their attendance, including, but not being limited to,
- 287 subpoenas duces tecum.
- 288 (4) The court may receive proof by affidavits, depositions,
- 289 oral testimony or other evidence and may order the prisoner
- 290 brought before it for the hearing.
- 291 (5) If the court finds in favor of the prisoner, it shall
- 292 enter an appropriate order with respect to the conviction or
- 293 sentence under attack, and any supplementary orders as to
- 294 rearraignment, retrial, custody, bail, discharge, correction of
- 295 sentence or other matters that may be necessary and proper. The
- 296 court shall make specific findings of fact, and state expressly
- 297 its conclusions of law, relating to each issue presented.
- 298 (6) The order as provided in subsection (5) of this section
- 299 or any order dismissing the prisoner's motion or otherwise denying
- 300 relief under this chapter is a final judgment and shall be
- 301 conclusive until reversed. It shall be a bar to a second or
- 302 successive motion under this chapter. Excepted from this
- 303 prohibition is a motion filed pursuant to Section 99-19-57(2),
- 304 Mississippi Code of 1972, raising the issue of the convict's
- 305 supervening insanity prior to the execution of a sentence of
- 306 death. A dismissal or denial of a motion relating to insanity

307 under Section 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be res

308 judicata on the issue and shall likewise bar any second or

309 successive motions on the issue. Likewise excepted from this

310 prohibition are those cases in which the prisoner can demonstrate

311 either that there has been an intervening decision of the Supreme

312 Court of either the State of Mississippi or the United States

313 which would have actually adversely affected the outcome of his

conviction or sentence or that he has evidence, not reasonably

315 discoverable at the time of trial, which is of such nature that it

316 would be practically conclusive that had such been introduced at

317 trial it would have caused a different result in the conviction or

sentence. Likewise excepted are those cases in which the prisoner

319 claims that his sentence has expired or his probation, parole or

320 conditional release has been unlawfully revoked.

321 (7) No relief shall be granted under this chapter unless the

prisoner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that he is

323 entitled to such.

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324 (8) Proceedings under this section shall be subject to the

325 provisions of Section 99-19-42.

326 (9) In cases resulting in a sentence of death and upon a

327 <u>determination of indigence, appointment of post-conviction counsel</u>

328 shall be made by the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel

329 <u>upon order entered by the Supreme Court promptly upon announcement</u>

330 of the decision on direct appeal affirming the sentence of death.

331 The order shall direct the trial court to immediately determine

indigence and whether the inmate will accept counsel.

SECTION 14. Section 99-39-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

334 amended as follows:

335 99-39-27. (1) The application for leave to proceed in the

336 trial court filed with the Supreme Court under Section 99-39-7

337 shall name the State of Mississippi as the respondent.

338 (2) The application shall contain the original and two (2)

339 executed copies of the motion proposed to be filed in the trial

340 court together with such other supporting pleadings and

341 documentation as the Supreme Court by rule may require.

- 342 (3) The prisoner shall serve an executed copy of the 343 application upon the Attorney General simultaneously with the
- 344 filing of the application with the court.
- 345 (4) The original motion, together with all files, records,
- 346 transcripts and correspondence relating to the judgment under
- 347 attack, shall promptly be examined by the court.
- 348 (5) Unless it appears from the face of the application,
- 349 motion, exhibits and the prior record that the claims presented by
- 350 such are not procedurally barred under Section 99-39-21 and that
- 351 they further present a substantial showing of the denial of a
- 352 state or federal right, the court shall by appropriate order deny
- 353 the application. The court may, in its discretion, require the
- 354 Attorney General upon sufficient notice to respond to the
- 355 application.
- 356 (6) The court upon satisfaction of the standards set forth
- 357 in this chapter is empowered to grant the application.
- 358 (7) In granting the application the court, in its
- 359 discretion, may:
- 360 (a) Where sufficient facts exist from the face of the
- 361 application, motion, exhibits, the prior record and the state's
- 362 response, together with any exhibits submitted therewith, or upon
- 363 stipulation of the parties, grant or deny any or all relief
- 364 requested in the attached motion.
- 365 (b) Allow the filing of the motion in the trial court
- 366 for further proceedings under Sections 99-39-13 through 99-39-23.
- 367 (8) No application or relief shall be granted without the
- 368 Attorney General being given at least five (5) days to respond.
- 369 (9) The dismissal or denial of an application under this
- 370 section is a final judgment and shall be a bar to a second or
- 371 successive application under this chapter. Excepted from this
- 372 prohibition is an application filed pursuant to Section
- 373 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, raising the issue of the
- 374 convict's supervening insanity prior to the execution of a
- 375 sentence of death. A dismissal or denial of an application
- 376 relating to insanity under Section 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code

377 of 1972, shall be res judicata on the issue and shall likewise bar any second or successive applications on the issue. Likewise 378 379 excepted from this prohibition are those cases in which the prisoner can demonstrate either that there has been an intervening 380 381 decision of the Supreme Court of either the State of Mississippi 382 or the United States which would have actually adversely affected the outcome of his conviction or sentence or that he has evidence, 383 384 not reasonably discoverable at the time of trial, which is of such nature that it would be practically conclusive that had such been 385 386 introduced at trial it would have caused a different result in the conviction or sentence. Likewise exempted are those cases in 387 which the prisoner claims that his sentence has expired or his 388 389 probation, parole or conditional release has been unlawfully

- 391 (10) Proceedings under this section shall be subject to the 392 provisions of Section 99-19-42.
- 393 (11) Post-conviction proceedings wherein the defendant is
 394 under sentence of death shall be governed by rules established by
 395 the Supreme Court as well as the provisions of this section.
- 396 SECTION 15. The following shall be codified as Section 397 99-15-18, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 398 <u>99-15-18.</u> (1) Counsel employed by an office funded by the 399 State of Mississippi or any county shall receive no compensation 400 or expenses for representation of a party seeking post-conviction 401 relief while under a sentence of death other than the compensation 402 attendant to his office.
- (2) Unless employed by such an office, counsel appointed to 403 represent a party seeking post-conviction relief while under a 404 405 sentence of death shall be paid at an hourly rate not to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the hourly rate allowed in the United 406 407 States District Courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi to attorneys appointed to represent defendants seeking 408 409 habeas corpus relief. Money shall not be paid to court appointed 410 counsel unless either (a) a petition is timely filed, or (b) if a 411 petition is not filed, a notice is timely filed stating that

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revoked.

- 412 counsel has reviewed the record and found no meritorious claim.
- 413 Prior to payment of any fees in a case in excess of Seven Thousand
- 414 Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) or expenses of investigation and
- 415 experts in excess of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
- 416 (\$2,500.00), the application for such fees and expenses will be
- 417 submitted to the Supreme Court for review of the award of the
- 418 convicting court. If counsel believes that the court has failed
- 419 to allow reasonable compensation, counsel may petition the Supreme
- 420 Court for review. If counsel is appointed in successive
- 421 post-conviction proceedings, such counsel shall receive reasonable
- 422 compensation considering the services performed.
- 423 (3) The trial court shall also, upon petition by the party
- 424 seeking post-conviction relief, authorize additional monies to pay
- 425 for investigative and expert services that are reasonably
- 426 necessary to adequately litigate the post-conviction claims. The
- 427 initial petition for such expenses shall present a credible
- 428 estimate of anticipated expenses, and such estimate shall be
- 429 updated from time to time as needed to inform the court of the
- 430 status of such expenses. Payment of such expenses shall be made
- 431 from funds in the Special Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund.
- 432 SECTION 16. The following shall be codified as Section
- 433 99-39-28, Mississippi Code of 1972:
- 434 <u>99-39-28.</u> If application to proceed in the trial court is
- 435 granted, post-conviction proceedings on cases where the death
- 436 penalty has been imposed in the trial court and appeals from the
- 437 trial court shall be conducted in accordance with rules
- 438 established by the Supreme Court.
- 439 <u>SECTION 17.</u> When judgment of death becomes final and a writ
- 440 of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court has been denied
- 441 or the time for filing such petition has expired, the court shall
- 442 set an execution date for a person sentenced to the death penalty.
- 443 Within sixty (60) days following the appointment of
- 444 post-conviction counsel, upon declaration by counsel that he deems
- 445 post-conviction review to be meritorious and that he intends to
- 446 file an application for post-conviction review, the court may stay

- 447 execution pending the disposition of the post-conviction
- 448 proceeding. In the event no application for post-conviction
- 449 relief is filed within one (1) year of the date of the disposition
- 450 of the petition for writ of certiorari or the time for certiorari
- 451 has expired, any stay entered by the court will automatically
- 452 vacate. The filing of a declaration by counsel that he deems
- 453 post-conviction review to be meritorious and intends to file an
- 454 application for post-conviction review shall in no manner
- 455 constitute the filing of an application for post-conviction review
- 456 that would toll the running of any statute of limitations.
- 457 Setting or resetting the date of execution shall be made on motion
- 458 of the state that all state and federal remedies have been
- 459 exhausted, or that the defendant has failed to file for further
- 460 state or federal review within the time allowed by law.
- SECTION 18. Section 99-19-49, Mississippi Code of 1972,
- 462 which provides for the setting of a day for the execution of a
- 463 death sentence, is repealed.
- 464 <u>SECTION 19.</u> Sections 19 through 29 of this act may be cited
- 465 as the "Mississippi Capital Defense Litigation Act."
- 466 <u>SECTION 20.</u> There is hereby created the Mississippi Office
- 467 of Capital Defense Counsel. This office shall consist of four (4)
- 468 attorneys, two (2) investigators, one (1) fiscal officer and two
- 469 (2) secretaries/paralegals. One of these attorneys shall serve as
- 470 director of the office. The director shall be appointed by the
- 471 Governor with the advise and consent of the Senate for a term of
- 472 four (4) years or until a successor takes office. The remaining
- 473 attorneys and other staff shall be appointed by the director of
- 474 the office and shall serve at the will and pleasure of the
- 475 director. The director and all other attorneys in the office
- 476 shall be active members of The Mississippi Bar. The director may
- 477 be removed by the Governor upon finding that the director is not
- 478 qualified under law, has failed to perform the duties of the
- 479 office, or has acted beyond the scope of the authority granted by
- 480 law for the office.
- 481 <u>SECTION 21.</u> The Office of Capital Defense Counsel is created

482 for the purpose of providing representation to indigent parties

483 under indictment for death penalty eligible offenses and to

484 perform such other duties as set forth by law.

485 <u>SECTION 22.</u> The Office of Capital Defense Counsel shall

486 limit its activities to representation of defendants accused of

487 death eligible offenses and ancillary matters related directly to

488 death eligible offenses and other activities expressly authorized

489 by statute. Representation by the office or by other court

490 appointed counsel under this act shall terminate upon completion

491 of trial and/or direct appeal. The attorneys appointed to serve

492 in the Office of Capital Defense Counsel shall devote their entire

time to the duties of the office, shall not represent any persons

494 in other litigation, civil or criminal, nor in any other way

495 engage in the practice of law, and shall in no manner, directly or

indirectly, engage in lobbying activities for or against the death

497 penalty. Any violation of this provision shall be grounds for

498 termination from employment, in the case of the director by the

Governor and in the case of other attorneys by the director with

500 approval of the Governor.

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501 <u>SECTION 23.</u> The director appointed under this act shall be

compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by statute

for a district attorney, and other attorneys in the office shall

504 be compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by

505 statute for an assistant district attorney.

506 <u>SECTION 24.</u> The Director of the Capital Defense Counsel

Office shall keep the office open Monday through Friday for not

108 less than eight (8) hours each day and observe such holidays as

509 prescribed by statute.

510 <u>SECTION 25.</u> In addition to the authority to represent

511 persons under indictment for death eligible offenses, the director

512 is hereby empowered to pay and disburse salaries, employment

513 benefits and charges relating to employment of staff and to

514 establish their salaries and expenses of the office; to incur and

515 pay travel expenses of staff necessary for the performance of the

516 duties of the office; to rent or lease on such terms as he may

517 think proper such office space as is necessary in the City of
518 Jackson to accommodate the staff; to enter into and perform
519 contracts and to purchase such necessary office supplies and
520 equipment as may be needed for the proper administration of said
521 offices within the funds appropriated for such purpose, and to
522 incur and pay such other expenses as are appropriate and customary

to the operation of the office.

SECTION 26. The director shall keep a docket of all indicted death eligible cases originating in the courts of Mississippi which must, at all reasonable times, be open to inspection by the public and must show the county, district and court in which the cause is pending. The director shall prepare and maintain a roster of all death penalty cases in the courts of Mississippi indicating the current status of each case and submit this report to the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts monthly. The director shall also report monthly to the Administrative Office of Courts the activities, receipts and expenditures of the office.

SECTION 27. If, at any time, during the representation of two (2) or more defendants the director determines that the interests of those persons are so adverse or hostile they cannot all be represented by the director or his staff without conflict of interest, or if the director shall determine that the volume or number of representations shall so require, the director in his sole discretion, notwithstanding any statute or regulation to the contrary, shall be authorized to employ qualified private counsel. Fees and expenses approved by order of the court of original jurisdiction, including investigative and expert witness expenses of such private counsel, shall be paid by funds appropriated to a Capital Defense Counsel Special Fund for this purpose, which fund is hereby created. Monies in this fund shall not lapse into the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year but shall remain in the fund, and any interest accrued to the fund shall remain in the fund.

SECTION 28. Upon determination of indigence the circuit

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- 552 court may in its discretion, appoint local counsel for the purpose
- of defending death eligible indigent defendants, the fees and
- 554 expenses of which shall be paid by the Capital Defense Counsel
- 555 Special Fund. In the presiding circuit judge's discretion, a
- 556 determination of the absence of competent death penalty defense
- 557 counsel having been made, counsel from the Office of Capital
- 558 Defense Counsel may be appointed to assist local counsel to defend
- 559 said case with all fees and expenses to be paid by the Capital
- 560 Defense Counsel Special Fund.
- 561 SECTION 29. Sections 25-32-31, 25-32-33, 25-32-35, 25-32-37,
- 562 25-32-39, 25-32-41, 25-32-43, 25-32-45, 25-32-47, 25-32-49,
- 563 25-32-51, 25-32-53, 25-32-55, 25-32-57, 25-32-59, 25-32-61,
- 564 25-32-63 and 25-32-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, which comprise
- 565 the Mississippi Statewide Public Defender System Act, are
- 566 repealed.
- SECTION 30. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 568 and after July 1, 2000.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CAPITAL POST-CONVICTION 2 COUNSEL ACT; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF CAPITAL 3 POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL AND SPECIFY ITS PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE 4QUALIFICATIONS FOR ATTORNEYS IN THE OFFICE; TO PRESCRIBE THE 5 DUTIES OF ATTORNEYS IN THE OFFICE; TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION; TO 6 SPECIFY OFFICE HOURS; TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR TO ACQUIRE OFFICE 7 SPACE, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR TO MAINTAIN 8A DOCKET; TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEYS IN SITUATIONS 9 WHERE CONFLICTS ARISE; TO CREATE THE SPECIAL CAPITAL 10 POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT ATTORNEYS APPOINTED 11TO THE OFFICE SHALL BE FULL TIME; TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-105, 12MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE SETTING OF THE DATE OF 13EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCE; TO AMEND SECTION 99-39-5, MISSISSIPPI 14 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR 15 POST-CONVICTION RELIEF IN CAPITAL CASES; TO AMEND SECTION 1699-39-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT 17 OF POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL IN CAPITAL CASES; TO AMEND SECTION 1899-39-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXCLUDE POST-CONVICTION 19RELIEF IN CAPITAL CASES; TO CREATE SECTION 99-15-18, MISSISSIPPI 20 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSATION OF COUNSEL IN 21 POST-CONVICTION RELIEF CASES INVOLVING THE DEATH PENALTY; TO 22CREATE SECTION 99-39-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT 23THE SUPREME COURT SHALL PROVIDE RULES FOR POST-CONVICTION 24 PROCEEDINGS IN CAPITAL CASES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SETTING OF THE 25 DATE FOR EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCES; TO REPEAL SECTION 99-19-49, $26\,\mathrm{MISSISSIPPI}$ CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE SETTING OF A DAY $27\,\mathrm{FOR}$ THE EXECUTION OF A DEATH SENTENCE; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI 28 CAPITAL DEFENSE LITIGATION ACT; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE 29 OF CAPITAL DEFENSE COUNSEL AND SPECIFY ITS PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE

30 QUALIFICATIONS FOR ATTORNEYS IN THE OFFICE; TO PROVIDE FOR 31 COMPENSATION; TO SPECIFY OFFICE HOURS; TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR 32 TO ACQUIRE OFFICE SPACE, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT; TO REQUIRE THE 33 DIRECTOR TO MAINTAIN A DOCKET; TO AUTHORIZE APPOINTMENT OF 34 ATTORNEYS IN SITUATIONS WHERE CONFLICTS ARISE; TO CREATE THE 35 SPECIAL CAPITAL DEFENSE LITIGATION FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT ATTORNEYS 36 APPOINTED TO THE OFFICE SHALL BE FULL TIME; AND FOR RELATED 37 PURPOSES.