Adopted AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill NO. 1228

By Senator(s) Committee

29 Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following: 30 31 SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "Mississippi Capital 32 Post-Conviction Counsel Act." 33 SECTION 2. There is created the Mississippi Office of 34 Capital Post-Conviction Counsel. This office shall consist of 35 three (3) attorneys, one (1) investigator, one (1) fiscal officer 36 37 and one (1) secretary/paralegal. One of those attorneys shall 38 serve as director of the office. The director shall be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the approval of a 39 40 majority of the justices voting, for a term of four (4) years, or until a successor takes office. The remaining attorneys and other 41 staff shall be appointed by the director of the office and shall 42 serve at the will and pleasure of the director. The director and 43 all other attorneys in the office shall be active members of The 44 45 Mississippi Bar and shall meet all qualifications necessary to serve as post-conviction counsel for persons under a sentence of 46 47 death. The director may be removed from office by the Chief Justice upon finding that the director is not qualified under law 48 to serve as post-conviction counsel for persons under sentences of 49 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.

52 <u>SECTION 3.</u> The Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel is 53 created for the purpose of providing representation to indigent 54 parties under sentences of death in post-conviction proceedings, 55 and to perform such other duties as set forth by law.

56 SECTION 4. The Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel 57 shall limit its activities to the representation of inmates under 58 sentence of death in post-conviction proceedings and ancillary 59 matters related directly to post-conviction review of their convictions and sentences and other activities explicitly 60 61 authorized in statute. Representation by the office or by private counsel under appointment by the office will end upon the filing 62 of proceeding for federal habeas corpus review or for appointment 63 64 of counsel to represent the defendant in federal habeas corpus 65 proceedings. However, the office may continue representation if 66 the office or a staff attorney employed by the office shall be appointed by a federal court to represent the inmate in federal 67 habeas corpus proceedings. In such event, the office or the 68 69 employee attorney shall apply to the federal court for 70 compensation and expenses and shall upon receipt of payments by 71 the federal court pay all sums received over to the office for 72 deposit in the Special Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund as 73 provided in Section 9 of this act, from which all expenses for investigation and litigation shall be disbursed. Representation 74 75 in post-conviction proceedings shall further include representation of the inmate from the exhaustion of all state and 76 77 federal post-conviction litigation until execution of the sentence 78 or an adjudication resulting in either a new trial or a vacation 79 of the death sentence. The attorneys appointed to serve in the 80 Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel shall devote their entire time to the duties of the office, shall not represent any 81 82 persons in other litigation, civil or criminal, nor in any other way engage in the practice of law, and shall in no manner, 83 directly or indirectly, participate in the trial or any person 84 charged with capital murder or direct appeal of any person under 85 86 sentence of death in the state, nor engage in lobbying activities

for or against the death penalty. Any violation of this provision shall be grounds for termination from employment, in the case of the director, by the Chief Justice, and in the case of other attorneys, by the director, with approval of the Chief Justice.
<u>SECTION 5.</u> The director appointed under this act shall be compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by statute

93 for a district attorney, and other attorneys in the office shall 94 be compensated at no more than the maximum amount allowed by 95 statute for an assistant district attorney.

96 <u>SECTION 6.</u> The Director of the Office of Capital
97 Post-Conviction Counsel shall keep the office open Monday through
98 Friday for not less than eight (8) hours each day.

99 SECTION 7. In addition to the authority to represent persons under sentence of death in state post-conviction proceedings, the 100 101 director is hereby empowered to pay and disburse salaries, 102 employment benefits and charges relating to employment of staff 103 and to establish their salaries, and expenses of the office; to 104 incur and pay travel expenses of staff necessary for the performance of the duties of the office; to rent or lease on such 105 106 terms as he may think proper such office space as is necessary in the City of Jackson to accommodate the staff; to solicit and 107 108 accept monies, gifts, grants or services from any public or private sources for the purpose of funding, operating and 109 110 executing the statutory duties of the office; to enter into and perform contracts, including, but not limited to, contracts and 111 agreements necessary to obtain and receive monies, gifts, grants 112 or services from federal, public and private sources, and to 113 114 purchase such necessary office supplies and equipment as may be 115 needed for the proper administration of said offices; and to incur and pay such other expenses as are appropriate and customary to 116 117 the operations of the office. The director shall be required to obtain a surety bond in the amount of not less than One Hundred 118 Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) payable to the state. The cost of 119 such bond shall be paid out of funds appropriated for the 120 121 operations of the office. All salaries and other expenditures

122 shall be paid from funds appropriated for such purposes augmented 123 by funds received as gifts and grants from public and private 124 sources.

SECTION 8. The director shall, as prescribed by the Chief 125 126 Justice, keep a docket of all death penalty cases originating in the courts of Mississippi, which must at all reasonable times be 127 128 open to the inspection of the public and must show the county, 129 district and court in which the causes have been instituted. The director shall prepare and maintain a roster of all death penalty 130 131 cases originating in the courts of Mississippi and pending in state and federal courts indicating the current status of each 132 such case, and a history of those death penalty cases filed since 133 134 1976. Copies of such dockets and rosters shall be submitted to 135 the Supreme Court in such format and with such appropriate 136 information and as frequently as the Chief Justice may direct. The director shall also report monthly to the Chief Justice the 137 138 activities, receipts and expenditures of the office.

139 SECTION 9. If, at any time during the representation of two (2) or more defendants, the director determines that the interest 140 141 of those persons are so adverse or hostile that they cannot all be 142 represented by the director or his staff without conflict of 143 interest, or if the director shall determine that the volume or number of representations shall so require, the director, in his 144 145 sole discretion, not withstanding any statute or regulation to the 146 contrary, shall be authorized to employ qualified private counsel. 147 Fees and expenses, approved by order of the appropriate court, including investigative and expert witness expenses of such 148 149 private counsel shall be paid from funds appropriated to a Special 150 Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund for this purpose, which fund is hereby created. Monies in this fund shall not lapse into the 151 152 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 153 154 the fund.

155 <u>SECTION 10.</u> The director is further authorized to solicit 156 and accept monies, gifts, grants or services from any public or

157 private source, for the purpose of funding, operating and 158 executing the duties of the office.

159 SECTION 11. Section 99-19-105, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 160 amended as follows:

99-19-105. (1) Whenever the death penalty is imposed, and 161 162 upon the judgment becoming final in the trial court, the sentence shall be reviewed on the record by the Mississippi Supreme Court. 163 164 The clerk of the trial court, within ten (10) days after receiving 165 the transcript, shall transmit the entire record and transcript to 166 the Mississippi Supreme Court together with a notice prepared by the clerk and a report prepared by the trial judge. The notice 167 168 shall set forth the title and docket number of the case, the name 169 of the defendant and the name and address of his attorney, a narrative statement of the judgment, the offense, and the 170 171 punishment prescribed. The report shall be in the form of a standard questionnaire prepared and supplied by the Mississippi 172 173 Supreme Court, a copy of which shall be served upon counsel for 174 the state and counsel for the defendant.

175 (2) The Mississippi Supreme Court shall consider the176 punishment as well as any errors enumerated by way of appeal.

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(3) With regard to the sentence, the court shall determine:

(a) Whether the sentence of death was imposed under theinfluence of passion, prejudice or any other arbitrary factor;

(b) Whether the evidence supports the jury's or judge's
finding of a statutory aggravating circumstance as enumerated in
Section 99-19-101;

183 (c) Whether the sentence of death is excessive or 184 disproportionate to the penalty imposed in similar cases, 185 considering both the crime and the defendant; and

(d) Should one or more of the aggravating circumstances
be found invalid on appeal, the Mississippi Supreme Court shall
determine whether the remaining aggravating circumstances are
outweighed by the mitigating circumstances or whether the
inclusion of any invalid circumstance was harmless error, or both.
(4) Both the defendant and the state shall have the right to

192 submit briefs within the time provided by the court, and to 193 present oral argument to the court.

194 (5) The court shall include in its decision a reference to 195 those similar cases which it took into consideration. In addition 196 to its authority regarding correction of errors, the court, with 197 regard to review of death sentences, shall be authorized to:

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(a) Affirm the sentence of death;

(b) Reweigh the remaining aggravating circumstances against the mitigating circumstances should one or more of the aggravating circumstances be found to be invalid, and (i) affirm the sentence of death or (ii) hold the error in the sentence phase harmless error and affirm the sentence of death or (iii) remand the case for a new sentencing hearing; or

205 (c) Set the sentence aside and remand the case for206 modification of the sentence to imprisonment for life.

(6) The sentence review shall be in addition to direct appeal, if taken, and the review and appeal shall be consolidated for consideration. The court shall render its decision on legal errors enumerated, the factual substantiation of the verdict, and the validity of the sentence.

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213 SECTION 12. Section 99-39-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 214 amended as follows:

215 99-39-5. (1) Any prisoner in custody under sentence of a 216 court of record of the State of Mississippi who claims:

(a) That the conviction or the sentence was imposed in
violation of the Constitution of the United States or the
Constitution or laws of Mississippi;

(b) That the trial court was without jurisdiction toimpose sentence;

(c) That the statute under which the conviction and/orsentence was obtained is unconstitutional;

224 (d) That the sentence exceeds the maximum authorized by 225 law;

(e) That there exists evidence of material facts, not

previously presented and heard, that requires vacation of the 227 228 conviction or sentence in the interest of justice;

229 (f) That his plea was made involuntarily; 230 (g) That his sentence has expired; his probation, 231 parole or conditional release unlawfully revoked; or he is otherwise unlawfully held in custody; 232

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That he is entitled to an out-of-time appeal; or (h)

234 (i) That the conviction or sentence is otherwise subject to collateral attack upon any grounds of alleged error 235 236 heretofore available under any common law, statutory or other 237 writ, motion, petition, proceeding or remedy; may file a motion to 238 vacate, set aside or correct the judgment or sentence, or for an 239 out-of-time appeal.

(2) A motion for relief under this chapter shall be made 240 241 within three (3) years after the time in which the prisoner's direct appeal is ruled upon by the Supreme Court of Mississippi 242 243 or, in case no appeal is taken, within three (3) years after the 244 time for taking an appeal from the judgment of conviction or sentence has expired, or in case of a guilty plea, within three 245 246 (3) years after entry of the judgment of conviction. Excepted 247 from this three-year statute of limitations are those cases in 248 which the prisoner can demonstrate either that there has been an 249 intervening decision of the Supreme Court of either the State of 250 Mississippi or the United States which would have actually adversely affected the outcome of his conviction or sentence or 251 252 that he has evidence, not reasonably discoverable at the time of 253 trial, which is of such nature that it would be practically 254 conclusive that had such been introduced at trial it would have 255 caused a different result in the conviction or sentence. Likewise excepted are those cases in which the prisoner claims that his 256 257 sentence has expired or his probation, parole or conditional release has been unlawfully revoked. Likewise excepted are 258 259 filings for post-conviction relief in capital cases which shall be made within one (1) year after conviction. 260

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(3) This motion is not a substitute for, nor does it affect,

262 any remedy incident to the proceeding in the trial court, or 263 direct review of the conviction or sentence.

(4) Proceedings under this chapter shall be subject to theprovisions of Section 99-19-42.

266 SECTION 13. Section 99-39-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 267 amended as follows:

99-39-23. (1) If an evidentiary hearing is required the judge may appoint counsel for a petitioner who qualifies for the appointment of counsel under Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(2) The hearing shall be conducted as promptly as
practicable, having regard for the need of counsel for both
parties for adequate time for investigation and preparation.

(3) The parties shall be entitled to subpoena witnesses and
compel their attendance, including, but not being limited to,
subpoenas duces tecum.

(4) The court may receive proof by affidavits, depositions,
oral testimony or other evidence and may order the prisoner
brought before it for the hearing.

281 (5) If the court finds in favor of the prisoner, it shall 282 enter an appropriate order with respect to the conviction or 283 sentence under attack, and any supplementary orders as to 284 rearraignment, retrial, custody, bail, discharge, correction of 285 sentence or other matters that may be necessary and proper. The 286 court shall make specific findings of fact, and state expressly 287 its conclusions of law, relating to each issue presented.

288 (6) The order as provided in subsection (5) of this section or any order dismissing the prisoner's motion or otherwise denying 289 290 relief under this chapter is a final judgment and shall be 291 conclusive until reversed. It shall be a bar to a second or 292 successive motion under this chapter. Excepted from this prohibition is a motion filed pursuant to Section 99-19-57(2), 293 294 Mississippi Code of 1972, raising the issue of the convict's 295 supervening insanity prior to the execution of a sentence of death. A dismissal or denial of a motion relating to insanity 296

under Section 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be res 297 judicata on the issue and shall likewise bar any second or 298 299 successive motions on the issue. Likewise excepted from this 300 prohibition are those cases in which the prisoner can demonstrate 301 either that there has been an intervening decision of the Supreme 302 Court of either the State of Mississippi or the United States 303 which would have actually adversely affected the outcome of his 304 conviction or sentence or that he has evidence, not reasonably discoverable at the time of trial, which is of such nature that it 305 would be practically conclusive that had such been introduced at 306 trial it would have caused a different result in the conviction or 307 308 sentence. Likewise excepted are those cases in which the prisoner 309 claims that his sentence has expired or his probation, parole or 310 conditional release has been unlawfully revoked.

311 (7) No relief shall be granted under this chapter unless the 312 prisoner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that he is 313 entitled to such.

314 (8) Proceedings under this section shall be subject to the 315 provisions of Section 99-19-42.

316 (9) In cases resulting in a sentence of death and upon a 317 determination of indigence, appointment of post-conviction counsel 318 shall be made by the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel 319 upon order entered by the Supreme Court promptly upon announcement 320 of the decision on direct appeal affirming the sentence of death. 321 The order shall direct the trial court to immediately determine 322 indigence and whether the inmate will accept counsel.

323 SECTION 14. Section 99-39-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 324 amended as follows:

325 99-39-27. (1) The application for leave to proceed in the 326 trial court filed with the Supreme Court under Section 99-39-7 327 shall name the State of Mississippi as the respondent.

328 (2) The application shall contain the original and two (2)
329 executed copies of the motion proposed to be filed in the trial
330 court together with such other supporting pleadings and
331 documentation as the Supreme Court by rule may require.

(3) The prisoner shall serve an executed copy of the
application upon the Attorney General simultaneously with the
filing of the application with the court.

335 (4) The original motion, together with all files, records,
336 transcripts and correspondence relating to the judgment under
337 attack, shall promptly be examined by the court.

(5) Unless it appears from the face of the application, 338 339 motion, exhibits and the prior record that the claims presented by 340 such are not procedurally barred under Section 99-39-21 and that 341 they further present a substantial showing of the denial of a state or federal right, the court shall by appropriate order deny 342 343 the application. The court may, in its discretion, require the 344 Attorney General upon sufficient notice to respond to the 345 application.

346 (6) The court upon satisfaction of the standards set forth347 in this chapter is empowered to grant the application.

348 (7) In granting the application the court, in its 349 discretion, may:

(a) Where sufficient facts exist from the face of the
application, motion, exhibits, the prior record and the state's
response, together with any exhibits submitted therewith, or upon
stipulation of the parties, grant or deny any or all relief
requested in the attached motion.

355 (b) Allow the filing of the motion in the trial court 356 for further proceedings under Sections 99-39-13 through 99-39-23. 357 (8) No application or relief shall be granted without the 358 Attorney General being given at least five (5) days to respond. The dismissal or denial of an application under this 359 (9) 360 section is a final judgment and shall be a bar to a second or successive application under this chapter. Excepted from this 361 prohibition is an application filed pursuant to Section 362 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code of 1972, raising the issue of the 363 364 convict's supervening insanity prior to the execution of a 365 sentence of death. A dismissal or denial of an application 366 relating to insanity under Section 99-19-57(2), Mississippi Code

367 of 1972, shall be res judicata on the issue and shall likewise bar any second or successive applications on the issue. Likewise 368 369 excepted from this prohibition are those cases in which the 370 prisoner can demonstrate either that there has been an intervening 371 decision of the Supreme Court of either the State of Mississippi 372 or the United States which would have actually adversely affected the outcome of his conviction or sentence or that he has evidence, 373 374 not reasonably discoverable at the time of trial, which is of such nature that it would be practically conclusive that had such been 375 376 introduced at trial it would have caused a different result in the conviction or sentence. Likewise exempted are those cases in 377 which the prisoner claims that his sentence has expired or his 378 379 probation, parole or conditional release has been unlawfully 380 revoked.

381 (10) Proceedings under this section shall be subject to the 382 provisions of Section 99-19-42.

383 (11) Post-conviction proceedings wherein the defendant is 384 under sentence of death shall be governed by rules established by 385 the Supreme Court as well as the provisions of this section.

386 SECTION 16. The following shall be codified as Section 387 99-15-18, Mississippi Code of 1972:

388 <u>99-15-18.</u> (1) Counsel employed by an office funded by the 389 State of Mississippi or any county shall receive no compensation 390 or expenses for representation of a party seeking post-conviction 391 relief while under a sentence of death other than the compensation 392 attendant to his office.

(2) Unless employed by such an office, counsel appointed to 393 represent a party seeking post-conviction relief while under a 394 395 sentence of death shall be paid at an hourly rate not to exceed eighty percent (80%) of the hourly rate allowed in the United 396 397 States District Courts of the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi to attorneys appointed to represent defendants seeking 398 habeas corpus relief. Money shall not be paid to court appointed 399 400 counsel unless either (a) a petition is timely filed, or (b) if a 401 petition is not filed, a notice is timely filed stating that

402 counsel has reviewed the record and found no meritorious claim. 403 Prior to payment of any fees in a case in excess of Seven Thousand 404 Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) or expenses of investigation and 405 experts in excess of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars 406 (\$2,500.00), the application for such fees and expenses will be 407 submitted to the Supreme Court for review of the award of the 408 convicting court. If counsel believes that the court has failed 409 to allow reasonable compensation, counsel may petition the Supreme 410 Court for review. If counsel is appointed in successive 411 post-conviction proceedings, such counsel shall receive reasonable 412 compensation considering the services performed.

413 (3) The trial court shall also, upon petition by the party 414 seeking post-conviction relief, authorize additional monies to pay 415 for investigative and expert services that are reasonably 416 necessary to adequately litigate the post-conviction claims. The 417 initial petition for such expenses shall present a credible 418 estimate of anticipated expenses, and such estimate shall be 419 updated from time to time as needed to inform the court of the 420 status of such expenses. Payment of such expenses shall be made 421 from funds in the Special Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund. 422 SECTION 16. The following shall be codified as Section 423 99-39-28, Mississippi Code of 1972:

424 <u>99-39-28.</u> If application to proceed in the trial court is 425 granted, post-conviction proceedings on cases where the death 426 penalty has been imposed in the trial court and appeals from the 427 trial court shall be conducted in accordance with rules 428 established by the Supreme Court.

SECTION 17. When judgment of death becomes final and a writ 429 430 of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court has been denied or the time for filing such petition has expired, the court shall 431 432 set an execution date for a person sentenced to the death penalty. 433 Within sixty (60) days following the appointment of 434 post-conviction counsel, upon declaration by counsel that he deems post-conviction review to be meritorious and that he intends to 435 436 file an application for post-conviction review, the court may stay

437 execution pending the disposition of the post-conviction 438 proceeding. In the event no application for post-conviction 439 relief is filed within one (1) year of the date of the disposition 440 of the petition for writ of certiorari or the time for certiorari 441 has expired, any stay entered by the court will automatically 442 vacate. The filing of a declaration by counsel that he deems 443 post-conviction review to be meritorious and intends to file an 444 application for post-conviction review shall in no manner 445 constitute the filing of an application for post-conviction review 446 that would toll the running of any statute of limitations. 447 Setting or resetting the date of execution shall be made on motion 448 of the state that all state and federal remedies have been exhausted, or that the defendant has failed to file for further 449 450 state or federal review within the time allowed by law. 451 SECTION 18. Section 99-19-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, 452 which provides for the setting of a day for the execution of a 453 death sentence, is repealed. 454 SECTION 19. This act shall take effect and be in force from

455 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 2COUNSEL ACT; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF CAPITAL 3 POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL AND SPECIFY ITS PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE 4 QUALIFICATIONS 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 9WHERE 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 13 EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCE; TO AMEND SECTION 99-39-5, MISSISSIPPI 14CODE 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 17OF 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 23 THE SUPREME COURT SHALL PROVIDE RULES FOR POST-CONVICTION 24 PROCEEDINGS IN CAPITAL CASES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SETTING OF THE 25DATE FOR EXECUTION OF DEATH SENTENCES; TO REPEAL SECTION 99-19-49,

26MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE SETTING OF A DAY 27FOR THE EXECUTION OF A DEATH SENTENCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.