

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Fees, Salaries and  
Administration;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2387

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:

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 (\$50,000.00) on July 1, 2001.

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, 2001.

