

By: Senator(s) Walls

To: Juvenile Justice;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2892

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON GANG BEHAVIOR IN
2 MISSISSIPPI TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
3 TO STUDY, TRACK, IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH
4 GANGS AND DEVIANT GROUPS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
5 MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE AND SPECIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
6 TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TASK
7 FORCE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Gang
11 Behavior in Mississippi, the purpose of which is to coordinate the
12 efforts of law enforcement agencies in the state to study, track,
13 identify and develop strategies for dealing with gangs and deviant
14 groups and individuals.

15 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following voting
16 members: the Director of the Bureau of Narcotics, or his
17 designee; the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designee; the
18 chief drug investigator for the Mississippi Department of
19 Corrections; the Attorney General, or his designee; the State
20 Superintendent of Education, or his designee; the President of the
21 Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, or his designee; the President
22 of the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, or his
23 designee; the President of the Mississippi Constables'
24 Association, or his designee; the Adjutant General of the
25 Mississippi National Guard, or his designee; the Director of the
26 Office of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services, or
27 his designee; a designee of the Mississippi Association of Black
28 Law Enforcement; a designee of the National Association for the
29 Advancement of Colored People; an appointee of the Lieutenant

30 Governor who is an expert in criminal justice and gang activity,
31 who shall serve as vice chairman of the task force; and an
32 appointee of the Governor who is an expert in criminal justice and
33 gang activity, who shall serve as chairman of the task force.

34 (3) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on
35 Juvenile Justice, Judiciary, Corrections and Education, or their
36 designees, shall serve in an advisory capacity as ex officio
37 nonvoting members of the task force.

38 (4) The Chairman of the Task Force on Gang Behavior shall be
39 the Attorney General who shall call the initial meeting of the
40 task force, or his designee. The task force shall adopt bylaws
41 and rules for its efficient operation, which may include
42 designation of its organizational structure including other
43 officers and committees, duties of committees, staff policies and
44 other such procedures as may be necessary.

45 (5) The task force shall be assigned to the Office of the
46 Attorney General for administrative purposes only, which shall
47 designate staff to assist the task force. The task force shall
48 have a line item in the budget of the Attorney General and shall
49 be financed through the annual appropriation wherein funds are
50 made available. Members of the task force may receive, within the
51 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
52 while engaged in official business of the task force, except that
53 the legislative members shall be paid from the contingent expense
54 funds of their respective houses.

55 (6) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
56 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
57 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
58 public comment.

59 (7) The task force may apply for and expend grants or other
60 contributions for the purpose of studying and tracking gang and
61 deviant activity in Mississippi.

62 (8) The Task Force on Gang Behavior in Mississippi shall
63 have the following responsibilities:

64 (a) Serve as a liaison with the appropriate local law
65 enforcement agencies, public school officials, human services
66 officials, youth court personnel and correctional officials to
67 track, study, identify and develop strategies for the prevention,
68 identification and suppression of illegal gang and deviant groups.

69 (b) Serve an advocacy and public awareness role with
70 the general public regarding illegal gang and deviant group
71 behavior.

72 (c) Recommend and make annual reports to the
73 Legislature and Governor regarding appropriate policies to reduce
74 illegal and deviant gang activity in Mississippi.

75 (d) Consult with experts and examine actions taken in
76 other states regarding illegal gang activity.

77 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
78 and after July 1, 2001.