

By: Representative Ford

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 485

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTION 99-15-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR INDIGENTS; TO
3 AMEND SECTION 20, CHAPTER 575, LAWS OF 1998, AS AMENDED BY SECTION
4 2, CHAPTER 375, LAWS OF 1999, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 2, CHAPTER
5 332, LAWS OF 2000, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 2, CHAPTER 375, LAWS OF
6 2001, TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR
7 INDIGENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 reenacted as follows:

11 99-15-15. When any person shall be charged with a felony,
12 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for ninety (90) days or
13 more, or commission of an act of delinquency, the court or the
14 judge in vacation, being satisfied that such person is an indigent
15 person and is unable to employ counsel, may, in the discretion of
16 the court, appoint counsel to defend him.

17 Such appointed counsel shall have free access to the accused
18 who shall have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in
19 his favor.

20 The accused shall have such representation available at every
21 critical stage of the proceeding against him where a substantial
22 right may be affected.

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 20, Chapter 575, Laws of 1998, as amended
24 by Section 2, Chapter 375, Laws of 1999, as amended by Section 2,
25 Chapter 332, Laws of 2000, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 375,
26 Laws of 2001, is amended as follows:

27 Section 2. Section 20 of Chapter 575, Laws of 1998, is
28 amended as follows:



29 Section 20. Section 99-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972,
30 which deals with the appointment of counsel for indigents, is
31 repealed from and after July 1, 2003.

32 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2002.

