To: Fees and Salaries of Public Officers; Appropriations

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
By: Representative Watson

HOUSE BILL NO. 685

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-3-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF THE ELECTED JUDICIARY, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25-3-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-3-35. (1) The annual salaries of the following judges are fixed as follows, to begin at the commencement of the next term of office immediately succeeding the existing term:

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court................. $118,900.00
Presiding Justice of the Supreme Court............. 116,900.00
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, each..... 116,300.00

However, in addition to their present official duties, there are imposed upon the Supreme Court Justices the extra duties of making a special study of existing laws and reporting to each regular session of the Legislature such constructive suggestions as they may deem necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice, and of advising and counseling with the State Librarian in the selection of law books for purchase and use in the State Law Library, advising with the librarian thereof upon the removal from the library of any books which may be the least frequently used, and for the placing of same in a convenient location so as to provide additional space for such books and other current publications which may be more frequently used or called for. For such extra services each justice, from and after the effective date of House Bill No. ___, 2002 Regular Session, shall receive a sum sufficient when added to the present salaries
of the justices to aggregate One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars ($118,900.00) for the Chief Justice, One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars ($116,900.00) for the Presiding Justice, and One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Dollars ($116,300.00) for Associate Justices, per annum. As each existing term expires and the above-captioned salaries become effective in due course, the extra duties and compensation provided for shall cease.

(2) The annual salaries of the judges of the Court of Appeals of Mississippi are fixed as follows:

- Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.............. $112,300.00
- Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals, each.... 109,500.00

(3) The annual salaries of the chancery and circuit court judges are fixed as follows:

- Chancery Judges, each............................ $104,700.00
- Circuit Judges, each.............................. 104,700.00

In addition to their present official duties, there are duties of making a special study of existing laws relating to trial courts and reporting to the Supreme Court of the State of Mississippi such constructive suggestions as they may deem necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice, which shall be recommended to the Legislature by the Supreme Court in the manner provided by law. The judges shall advise and supervise in the purchase of law books for the libraries of each district, and shall study and evaluate the inventory of books and facilities now existing in the libraries of each district to effect the removal and relocation of obsolete publications so as to provide additional space for those books and current publications more frequently used. The judges shall study the existing rules promulgated by the circuit and chancery court judicial associations governing the operation of chancery and circuit courts, and revise the same pursuant to existing laws.
For such extra services each judge, from and after the effective
date of House Bill No. ____, 2002 Regular Session, shall receive a
sum sufficient when added to the present salaries of the judges to
aggregate One Hundred Four Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars
($104,700.00) per annum for each judge. Upon the expiration of
the existing term, the above-captioned salaries become effective
in due course, and the extra duties and compensation provided for
shall cease.

(4) The Supreme Court shall prepare a payroll for chancery
judges and circuit judges and submit such payroll to the
Department of Finance and Administration.

(5) The annual salary of the full-time district attorneys
shall be Eighty-nine Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Dollars
($89,830.00).

(6) The annual salary of the full-time legal assistants
shall be not less than Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($15,000.00) nor
more than Seventy-seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
($77,500.00), as established by the district attorney.

SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
extended.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2002, if it is effectuated on or before that
date under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended
and extended. If it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, after July 1, 2002,
this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the date
it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of
1965, as amended and extended.