

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Fees, Salaries and
Administration;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2764

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-13-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE ANNUAL SALARY OF COURT REPORTERS FOR CIRCUIT AND
3 CHANCERY COURTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-13-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 9-13-19. (1) Court reporters for circuit and chancery
8 courts shall be paid an annual salary of Forty-five Thousand
9 Dollars (\$45,000.00) plus any additional amount that may be
10 designated under the 2003 Tenure/Merit Proposal I/II payable by
11 the Administrative Office of Courts. In addition, any court
12 reporter performing the duties of a court administrator in the
13 same judicial district in which the person is employed as a court
14 reporter may be paid additional compensation for performing the
15 court administrator duties. The annual amount of the additional
16 compensation shall be set by vote of the judges and chancellors
17 for whom the court administrator duties are performed, with
18 consideration given to the number of hours per month devoted by
19 the court reporter to performing the duties of a court
20 administrator. The additional compensation shall be submitted to
21 the Administrative Office of Courts for approval.

22 (2) The several counties in each respective court district
23 shall transfer from the general funds of those county treasuries
24 to the Administrative Office of Courts a proportionate amount to
25 be paid toward the annual compensation of the court reporter,
26 including any additional compensation paid for the performance of
27 court administrator duties. The amount to be paid by each county



28 shall be determined by the number of weeks in which court is held
29 in each county in proportion to the total number of weeks court is
30 held in the district. For purposes of this section, the term
31 "compensation" means the gross salary plus all amounts paid for
32 benefits, or otherwise, as a result of employment or as required
33 by employment, but does not include transcript fees otherwise
34 authorized to be paid by or through the counties. However, only
35 salary earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited
36 for retirement purposes. Amounts paid for transcript fees,
37 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel
38 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement
39 purposes.

40 For example, if there are thirty-eight (38) scheduled court
41 weeks in a particular district, a county in which court is
42 scheduled five (5) weeks out of the year would have to pay
43 five-thirty-eighths ($5/38$) of the total annual compensation.

44 (3) The salary and any additional compensation for the
45 performance of court administrator duties shall be paid in twelve
46 (12) installments on the last working day of each month after it
47 has been duly authorized by the appointing judge or chancellor and
48 an order duly placed on the minutes of the court. Each county
49 shall transfer to the Administrative Office of Courts one-twelfth
50 ($1/12$) of the amount required to be paid pursuant to subsection
51 (2) of this section by the twentieth day of each month for the
52 salary that is to be paid on the last working day of the month.
53 The Administrative Office of Courts shall pay to the court
54 reporter the total amount of salary due for that month. Any
55 county may pay, in the discretion of the board of supervisors, by
56 the twentieth day of January of any year, the amount due for a
57 full twelve (12) months.

58 (4) From and after October 1, 1996, all circuit and chancery
59 court reporters will be employees of the Administrative Office of
60 Courts.



61 (5) No circuit or chancery court reporter shall be entitled
62 to any compensation for any special or extended term of court
63 after passage of this section.

64 (6) No chancery or circuit court reporter shall practice law
65 in the court within which he or she is the court reporter.

66 (7) For all travel required in the performance of official
67 duties, the circuit or chancery court reporter shall be paid
68 mileage by the county in which the duties were performed at the
69 same rate as provided for state employees in Section 25-3-41. The
70 court reporter shall file in the office of the clerk of the court
71 which he serves a certificate of mileage expense incurred during
72 that term and payment of such expense to the court reporter shall
73 be paid on allowance by the judge of such court.

74 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
75 and after July 1, 2003.

