

By: Representatives Wells-Smith, Flaggs

To: Juvenile Justice;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 983

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2, CHAPTER 602, LAWS OF 2002, AS  
2 AMENDED BY CHAPTER 444, LAWS OF 2003, WHICH CREATED THE JUVENILE  
3 DETENTION FACILITIES TASK FORCE; TO EXTEND THE REPORTING DATE OF  
4 THE TASK FORCE FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2003, TO DECEMBER 1, 2004; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Chapter 602, Laws of 2002, as  
8 amended by Chapter 444, Laws of 2003, is amended as follows:

9 Section 2. (1) There is established a Juvenile Detention  
10 Facilities Task Force, the duties of which shall be to develop  
11 uniform standards for juvenile detention facilities in the state.  
12 The uniform standards shall address the following areas, at a  
13 minimum:

- 14 (a) Operations of juvenile detention facilities;
- 15 (b) Programs and services provided by juvenile  
16 detention facilities; and
- 17 (c) Training of juvenile detention facility staff.

18 The task force shall utilize the Standards for Juvenile  
19 Detention Facilities, 3rd Edition, developed by the American  
20 Correctional Association in cooperation with the Commission on  
21 Accreditation for Corrections, as a guide for developing the  
22 uniform standards.

23 (2) The Juvenile Detention Facilities Task Force established  
24 by Section 2, Chapter 602, Laws of 2002, is reestablished on March  
25 18, 2003. In addition to the duties described in subsection (1)  
26 of this section, the task force shall determine and recommend the  
27 following:

28           (a) A state agency to administer and enforce the  
29 uniform standards for juvenile detention facilities that have been  
30 established by the task force;

31           (b) Appropriate sanctions for noncompliance with the  
32 uniform standards to be imposed on juvenile detention facilities  
33 by the administering agency that is selected by the task force;

34           (c) The composition and duties of an advisory board  
35 that will advise the administering agency selected by the task  
36 force on matters relating to juvenile detention facilities;

37           (d) The role of local government in administering  
38 juvenile detention centers; and

39           (e) The amount of funding needed to staff and  
40 facilitate the administering agency described in paragraph (a) of  
41 this subsection in its duties relating to juvenile detention  
42 centers, together with the sources and methods of providing that  
43 funding.

44           (3) The task force shall consist of seventeen (17) members  
45 as follows:

46           (a) Two (2) administrators of juvenile detention  
47 centers, appointed by the Executive Director of the Division of  
48 Public Safety Planning of the Department of Public Safety;

49           (b) One (1) representative of the Office of Youth  
50 Services of the Department of Human Services;

51           (c) One (1) representative of the Division of Public  
52 Safety Planning of the Department of Public Safety;

53           (d) One (1) representative of the State Department of  
54 Health;

55           (e) One (1) representative of the Mississippi  
56 Association of Supervisors;

57           (f) One (1) representative of education, appointed by  
58 the State Superintendent of Public Education;

59           (g) One (1) county sheriff who is a representative of  
60 the Mississippi Sheriff's Association;

61 (h) One (1) representative of a youth advocacy  
62 organization or group, appointed by the Director of the Office of  
63 Youth Services of the Department of Human Services;

64 (i) One (1) youth court judge who is a representative  
65 of the Mississippi Council of Youth Court Judges;

66 (j) Two (2) members of the Juvenile Justice Committee  
67 of the Mississippi House of Representatives, appointed by the  
68 Speaker of the House;

69 (k) Two (2) members of the Juvenile Justice Committee  
70 of the Mississippi Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

71 (l) One (1) attorney who has experience in youth court  
72 matters, appointed by the Executive Director of the Division of  
73 Public Safety Planning of the Department of Public Safety; and

74 (m) Two (2) members from the faith-based community,  
75 appointed by the Governor.

76 (4) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a  
77 chairman and vice chairman from its membership, and shall adopt  
78 rules for transacting its business and keeping records. If  
79 sufficient funds are available to the task force for that purpose,  
80 members of the task force may receive a per diem in the amount  
81 provided in Section 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business  
82 of the task force, and members of the task force other than the  
83 legislative members may receive reimbursement for travel expenses  
84 incurred while engaged in official business of the task force in  
85 accordance with Section 25-3-41.

86 (5) Before December 1, 2004, the task force shall make a  
87 report of its work and recommendations, and it shall submit a copy  
88 of the report to the Legislature and the Governor.

89 (6) The task force shall be assigned to the Division of  
90 Public Safety Planning of the Department of Public Safety for  
91 administrative purposes only, and the Division of Public Safety  
92 Planning shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task  
93 force may solicit grants, donations and other funds, and may

94 accept and expend any funds that are made available to the task  
95 force to carry out its purpose. However, no state general funds  
96 may be used to pay any expenses of the task force.

97 (7) All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of  
98 the state, including the state universities and the community and  
99 junior colleges, shall cooperate with the task force with such  
100 assistance as requested by the task force.

101 (8) After the presentation of its report to the Legislature  
102 and the Governor, the task force shall be dissolved.

103 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104 and after its passage.