

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary, Division A;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2948

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE  
2 LENGTHY TRIAL FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT  
3 THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR SHALL NOT LAPSE INTO THE STATE GENERAL  
4 FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT RULES SHALL BE PROMULGATED TO ADMINISTER THE  
5 FUND; TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COURT COST ON CIVIL CASES IN ORDER TO  
6 FUND THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES IN THE FUND SHALL BE USED  
7 TO PROVIDE SALARY SUPPLEMENTATION TO JURORS SERVING ON CIVIL CASES  
8 IN WHICH THE TRIAL EXTENDS BEYOND 10 DAYS; AND FOR RELATED  
9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created in the State  
12 Treasury a special fund designated as the Lengthy Trial Fund. The  
13 funds shall be administered by the Supreme Court through the  
14 Administrative Office of Courts. The Administrative Office of  
15 Courts may also accept monies from any public or private source  
16 for deposit into the fund. Money remaining in the fund at the end  
17 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and  
18 any interest earned from the investment of monies in the fund  
19 shall be deposited to the credit of the funds.

20 (2) The Supreme Court shall promulgate rules to administer  
21 the Lengthy Trial Fund; monies in the fund shall be used to  
22 provide full or partial wage replacement or wage supplementation  
23 to jurors who serve as petit jurors in civil cases for more than  
24 ten (10) days. The court rules shall provide for the following:

25 (i) The selection and appointment of an  
26 administrator for the fund.

27 (ii) Procedures for the administration of the  
28 fund, including payments of salaries of the administrator and  
29 other necessary personnel.

30 (iii) Procedures for the accounting, auditing and  
31 investment of money in the Lengthy Trial Fund.

32 (iv) A report by the Administrative Office of  
33 Courts on the administration of the Lengthy Trial Fund in its  
34 annual report on the judicial branch, setting forth the money  
35 collected for and disbursed from the fund.

36 (3) In addition to any other fees required under state law,  
37 each circuit clerk shall collect as additional cost on each civil  
38 case filed at the time of filing, unless otherwise exempted under  
39 applicable state law, an additional fee of Ten Dollars (\$10.00)  
40 per case to be paid into the Lengthy Trial Fund. All such fees  
41 shall be forwarded to the Administrator of the Lengthy Trial Fund  
42 for deposit.

43 (4) The administrator shall use the fees deposited in the  
44 Lengthy Trial Fund to pay full or partial wage replacement or  
45 supplementation to jurors whose employers pay less than full  
46 regular wages when the period of jury service lasts more than ten  
47 (10) days as provided by state law.

48 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2004.