By: Representative Warren

To: Judiciary A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 203

- AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 13-7-1, 13-7-3, 13-7-5, 13-7-7, 13-7-9, 13-7-11, 13-7-13, 13-7-15, 13-7-17, 13-7-19, 13-7-21, 13-7-23, 13-7-25, 13-7-27, 13-7-29, 13-7-31, 13-7-33, 13-7-35, 13-7-37, 13-7-39, 13-7-41, 13-7-43, 13-7-45, 13-7-47 AND 13-7-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATE THE STATE GRAND JURY ACT 3 4 5 AND PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF A STATE GRAND JURY; TO REENACT 6 7 AND AMEND SECTION 99-11-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON VENUE FOR INDICTMENTS BY THE STATE GRAND JURY; TO AMEND SECTION 27, LAWS OF 1993, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 382, LAWS OF 8 9 1998, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 480, LAWS OF 1999, AS AMENDED BY 10 CHAPTER 471, LAWS OF 2002, TO EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE STATE 11 GRAND JURY ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 12
- 13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
- SECTION 1. Section 13-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 14
- reenacted as follows: 15
- 16 13-7-1. This chapter may be cited as the "State Grand Jury
- Act," and any state grand jury which may be convened as provided 17
- herein shall be known as "State Grand Jury of Mississippi." 18
- SECTION 2. Section 13-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 19
- 20 reenacted as follows:
- 21 13-7-3. For purposes of this chapter:
- (a) The phrase "Attorney General or his designee" also 22
- 23 includes:
- (i) The Attorney General or his designees; 2.4
- 25 (ii) The Attorney General and his designee or
- designees. 26
- 27 The term "impaneling judge" means any senior
- circuit court judge of any circuit court district who, upon 28
- petition by the Attorney General, impanels a state grand jury 29
- 30 under the provisions of this chapter and shall also include any
- 31 successor to such judge as provided by law.

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- 32 **SECTION 3.** Section 13-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 33 reenacted as follows:
- 34 13-7-5. There is established a state grand jury system.
- 35 Each state grand jury shall consist of twenty (20) persons who may
- 36 be impaneled and who may meet at any suitable location within the
- 37 state as designated by the impaneling judge. Fifteen (15) members
- 38 of a state grand jury constitute a quorum.
- 39 **SECTION 4.** Section 13-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 40 reenacted as follows:
- 41 13-7-7. (1) The jurisdiction of a state grand jury
- 42 impaneled under this chapter extends throughout the state. The
- 43 subject matter jurisdiction of a state grand jury in all cases is
- 44 limited to offenses involving any and all conduct made unlawful by
- 45 the Mississippi Uniform Controlled Substances Law or any other
- 46 provision of law involving narcotics, dangerous drugs or
- 47 controlled substances, or any crime arising out of or in
- 48 connection with a crime involving narcotics, dangerous drugs or
- 49 controlled substances, and crimes involving any attempt, aiding,
- 50 abetting, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the
- 51 aforementioned crimes if the crimes occur within more than one (1)
- 52 circuit court district or have transpired or are transpiring or
- 53 have significance in more than one (1) circuit court district of
- 54 this state.
- 55 (2) Whenever the Attorney General considers it necessary,
- 56 and normal investigative or prosecutorial procedures are not
- 57 adequate, the Attorney General may petition in writing to the
- 58 senior circuit court judge of any circuit court district in this
- 59 state for an order impaneling a state grand jury. For the
- 60 purposes of this chapter, such judge shall be referred to as the
- 61 impaneling judge. The petition must allege the following:
- 62 (a) The type of offenses to be inquired into;
- (b) That the state grand jury has jurisdiction to
- 64 consider such matters;

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- (c) That the offenses to be inquired into have occurred
- 66 within more than one (1) circuit court district or have transpired
- or are transpiring or have significance in more than one (1)
- 68 circuit court district of this state;
- (d) That the Attorney General has conferred with the
- 70 Commissioner of Public Safety and the Director of the Mississippi
- 71 Bureau of Narcotics and that each of such officials join in the
- 72 petition; and
- 73 (e) That the Attorney General has conferred with the
- 74 appropriate district attorney for each jurisdiction in which the
- 75 crime or crimes are alleged to have occurred.
- 76 (3) The impaneling judge, after due consideration of the
- 77 petition, may order the impanelment of a state grand jury in
- 78 accordance with the petition for a term of twelve (12) calendar
- 79 months. Upon petition by the Attorney General, the impaneling
- 80 judge, by order, may extend the term of that state grand jury for
- 81 a period of six (6) months, but the term of that state grand jury,
- 82 including any extension thereof, shall not exceed two (2) years.
- 83 (4) The impaneling judge shall preside over the state grand
- 84 jury until its discharge.
- 85 (5) The impaneling judge may discharge a state grand jury
- 86 prior to the end of its original term or any extensions thereof,
- 87 upon a determination that its business has been completed, or upon
- 88 the request of the Attorney General.
- 89 (6) If, at any time within the original term of any state
- 90 grand jury or any extension thereof, the impaneling judge
- 91 determines that the state grand jury is not conducting
- 92 investigative activity within its jurisdiction or proper
- 93 investigative activity, the impaneling judge may limit the
- 94 investigations so that the investigation conforms with the
- 95 jurisdiction of the state grand jury and existing law or he may
- 96 discharge the state grand jury. An order issued pursuant to this
- 97 subsection or under subsection (5) of this section shall not

- 98 become effective less than ten (10) days after the date on which
- 99 it is issued and actual notice given to the Attorney General and
- 100 the foreman of the state grand jury, and may be appealed by the
- 101 Attorney General to the Supreme Court. If an appeal from the
- 102 order is made, the state grand jury, except as otherwise ordered
- 103 by the Supreme Court, shall continue to exercise its powers
- 104 pending disposition of the appeal.
- 105 **SECTION 5.** Section 13-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 106 reenacted as follows:
- 107 13-7-9. A state grand jury may return indictments
- 108 irrespective of the county or judicial district where the offense
- 109 is committed. If an indictment is returned, it must be certified
- 110 and transferred for prosecution to the county designated by the
- 111 impaneling judge. The powers and duties of and the law applicable
- 112 to county grand juries apply to the state grand jury, except when
- 113 such powers and duties and applicable law are inconsistent with
- 114 the provisions of this chapter.
- 115 **SECTION 6.** Section 13-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 116 reenacted as follows:
- 117 13-7-11. The Attorney General or his designee shall attend
- 118 sessions of a state grand jury and shall serve as its legal
- 119 advisor. The Attorney General or his designee shall examine
- 120 witnesses, present evidence, and draft indictments and reports
- 121 upon the direction of a state grand jury.
- 122 **SECTION 7.** Section 13-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 123 reenacted as follows:
- 124 13-7-13. The impaneling judge shall appoint a circuit clerk
- 125 who shall serve as the clerk of the state grand jury. The
- 126 compensation of the state grand jury clerk shall be paid out of
- 127 any available funds appropriated for that purpose.
- 128 SECTION 8. Section 13-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 129 reenacted as follows:

13-7-15. After the impaneling judge orders a term for the 130 131 state grand jury on petition of the Attorney General, the 132 impaneling judge shall order that the circuit clerk for each 133 county shall proceed to draw at random from the jury box as 134 provided by Section 13-5-26, the name of one (1) voter of such 135 county for each two thousand (2,000) voters or fraction thereof registered in such county and shall place these names on a list. 136 The circuit clerk shall not disqualify or excuse any individual 137 whose name is drawn. When the list is compiled, the clerk of the 138 circuit court for each county shall forward the list to the clerk 139 140 of the state grand jury. Upon receipt of all the lists from the clerks of the circuit courts, the clerk of the state grand jury 141 142 shall place all the names so received upon a list which shall be 143 known as the master list. 144 The impaneling judge shall order the clerk of the state grand jury to produce the master list and shall direct the random 145 drawing of the names of one hundred (100) persons from the master 146 147 list. The names drawn shall be given to the clerk of the state grand jury who shall cause each person drawn for service to be 148 149 served with a summons either personally by the sheriff of the county where the juror resides or by mail, addressed to the juror 150 151 at his usual residence, business or post office address, requiring 152 him to report for state grand jury service at a specified time and 153 place as designated by the impaneling judge. From the one hundred 154 (100) persons summoned, a state grand jury shall be drawn for that term consisting of twenty (20) persons. State grand jurors must 155 156 be drawn in the same manner as jurors are drawn for service on the 157 county grand jury. All qualified persons shall be liable to serve as state grand 158 159 jurors, unless excused by the court for one (1) of the following

causes:

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- (a) When the juror is ill, or when on account of serious illness in the juror's family, the presence of the juror is required at home;
- 164 (b) When the juror's attendance would cause a serious
  165 financial loss to the juror or to the juror's business; or
- (c) When the juror is under an emergency, fairly equivalent to those mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs (a) and (b).

An excuse of illness under paragraph (a) may be made to the state grand jury clerk outside of open court by providing the clerk with either a certificate of a licensed physician or an affidavit of the juror, stating that the juror is ill or that there is a serious illness in the juror's family. The test of an excuse under paragraph (b) shall be whether, if the juror were incapacitated by illness or otherwise for a week, some other persons would be available or could reasonably be procured to carry on the business for the week, and the test of an excuse under paragraph (c) shall be such as to be the fair equivalent, under the circumstances of that prescribed under paragraph (b). In cases under paragraphs (b) and (c) the excuse must be made by the juror, in open court, under oath.

It shall be unlawful for any employer or other person to persuade or attempt to persuade any juror to avoid jury service, or to intimidate or to threaten any juror in that respect. So to do shall be deemed an interference with the administration of justice and a contempt of court and punishable as such.

Every citizen over sixty-five (65) years of age shall be
exempt from service if he claims the privilege. No qualified
juror shall be excluded because of such reason, but the same shall
be a personal privilege to be claimed by any person selected for
state grand jury duty. Any citizen over sixty-five (65) years of
age may claim this personal privilege outside of open court by

- 193 providing the clerk of court with information that allows the
- 194 clerk to determine the validity of the claim.
- 195 The state grand jurors shall be charged by the impaneling
- 196 judge as to their authority and responsibility under the law and
- 197 each juror shall be sworn pursuant to Section 13-5-45. Nothing in
- 198 this section shall be construed as limiting the right of the
- 199 Attorney General or his designee to request that a potential state
- 200 grand juror be excused for cause. The jury selection process
- 201 shall be conducted by the impaneling judge. Jurors of a state
- 202 grand jury shall receive reimbursement for travel and mileage as
- 203 provided for state employees by Section 25-3-41 and shall be paid
- 204 per diem compensation in the amount provided by Section 25-3-69.
- 205 All compensation and expenses for meals and lodging of state grand
- 206 jurors shall be paid out of any available funds appropriated for
- 207 that purpose.
- 208 **SECTION 9.** Section 13-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 209 reenacted as follows:
- 210 13-7-17. The impaneling judge shall appoint one (1) of the
- 211 jurors to be a foreman and another to be deputy foreman. During
- 212 the absence of the foreman, the deputy foreman shall act as
- 213 foreman. The foreman and deputy foreman shall be sworn pursuant
- 214 to Section 13-5-45.
- 215 **SECTION 10.** Section 13-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 216 reenacted as follows:
- 217 13-7-19. After the state grand jurors shall have been sworn
- 218 and impaneled, no objections shall be raised by plea or otherwise,
- 219 to the state grand jury, but the impaneling of the state grand
- 220 jury shall be conclusive evidence of its competency and
- 221 qualifications. However, any party interested may challenge the
- 222 jury, except to the array, for fraud.
- 223 **SECTION 11.** Section 13-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 224 reenacted as follows:

225	13-7-21. The clerk of the state grand jury, upon request of
226	the Attorney General or his designee, shall issue subpoenas, or
227	subpoenas duces tecum to compel individuals, documents or other
228	materials to be brought from anywhere in the state or another
229	state to a state grand jury. In addition, a state grand jury may
230	proceed in the same manner as is provided for by law in relation
231	to the issuance of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; however,
232	the provisions of such law shall not be considered a limitation
233	upon this section, but shall be supplemental thereto. The
234	subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum may be for investigative
235	purposes and for the retention of documents or other materials so
236	subpoenaed for proper criminal proceedings. Any investigator
237	employed by the Attorney General or any law enforcement officer
238	with appropriate jurisdiction is empowered to serve such subpoenas
239	and subpoenas duces tecum and receive such documents and other
240	materials for return to a state grand jury. Any person violating
241	a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum issued pursuant to this
242	chapter, or who fails to fully answer all questions put to him
243	before proceedings of the state grand jury whenever the response
244	thereto is not privileged or otherwise protected by law, including
245	the granting of immunity as authorized by this chapter, or any
246	other law, may be punished by the impaneling judge for contempt
247	provided the response is not privileged or otherwise protected by
248	law. The Attorney General or his designee may petition the
249	impaneling judge to compel compliance by the person alleged to
250	have committed the violation or who has failed to answer. If the
251	impaneling judge considers compliance is warranted, he may order
252	compliance and may punish the individual for contempt, as provided
253	in Section 9-1-17, where the compliance does not occur. The clerk
254	of the state grand jury may also issue subpoenas and subpoenas
255	duces tecum to compel individuals, documents or other materials to
256	be brought from anywhere in the state to the trial of any
257	indictment returned by a state grand jury or the trial of any
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- 258 civil forfeiture action arising out of an investigation conducted
- 259 by a state grand jury.
- 260 **SECTION 12.** Section 13-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 261 reenacted as follows:
- 262 13-7-23. Once a state grand jury has entered into a term,
- 263 the petition and order establishing and impaneling the state grand
- 264 jury may be amended as often as necessary and appropriate so as to
- 265 expand the areas of inquiry authorized by the order or to add
- 266 additional areas of inquiry thereto, consistent with the
- 267 provisions of this chapter. The procedures for amending this
- 268 authority are the same as those for filing the original petition
- 269 and order.
- 270 **SECTION 13.** Section 13-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 271 reenacted as follows:
- 272 13-7-25. A court reporter shall record either
- 273 stenographically or by use of an electronic recording device, all
- 274 state grand jury proceedings except when the state grand jury is
- 275 deliberating or voting. Subject to the limitations of Section
- 276 13-7-29 and any rule of court, a defendant has the right to review
- 277 and to reproduce the stenographically or electronically recorded
- 278 materials. Transcripts of the recorded testimony or proceedings
- 279 must be made when requested by the Attorney General or his
- 280 designee. An unintentional failure of any recording to reproduce
- 281 all or any portion of the testimony or proceeding shall not affect
- 282 the validity of the prosecution. The recording or reporter's
- 283 notes or any transcript prepared therefrom and all books, papers,
- 284 records and correspondence produced before the state grand jury
- 285 shall remain in the custody and control of the Attorney General or
- 286 his designee unless otherwise ordered by the court in a particular
- 287 case.
- 288 SECTION 14. Section 13-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 289 reenacted as follows:

- 290 13-7-27. The foreman shall administer an oath or affirmation
- 291 in the manner prescribed by law to any witness who testifies
- 292 before a state grand jury.
- 293 **SECTION 15.** Section 13-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 294 reenacted as follows:
- 295 13-7-29. (1) State grand jury proceedings are secret, and a
- 296 state grand juror shall not disclose the nature or substance of
- 297 the deliberations or vote of the state grand jury. The only
- 298 persons who may be present in the state grand jury room when a
- 299 state grand jury is in session, except for deliberations and
- 300 voting, are the state grand jurors, the Attorney General or his
- 301 designees, an interpreter if necessary and the witness testifying.
- 302 A state grand juror, the Attorney General or his designees, any
- 303 interpreter used and any person to whom disclosure is made
- 304 pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section may not disclose the
- 305 testimony of a witness examined before a state grand jury or other
- 306 evidence received by it except when directed by a court for the
- 307 purpose of:
- 308 (a) Ascertaining whether it is consistent with the
- 309 testimony given by the witness before the court in any subsequent
- 310 criminal proceedings;
- 311 (b) Determining whether the witness is guilty of
- 312 perjury;
- 313 (c) Assisting local, state or federal law enforcement
- 314 or investigating agencies, including another grand jury, in
- 315 investigating crimes under their investigative jurisdiction;
- 316 (d) Providing the defendant the materials to which he
- 317 is entitled pursuant to Section 13-7-25; or
- 318 (e) Complying with constitutional, statutory or other
- 319 legal requirements or to further justice.
- 320 If the court orders disclosure of matters occurring before a
- 321 state grand jury, the disclosure shall be made in that manner, at
- 322 that time, and under those conditions as the court directs.

- 323 (2) In addition, disclosure of testimony of a witness 324 examined before a state grand jury or other evidence received by 325 it may be made without being directed by a court to:
- 326 (a) The Attorney General or his designees for use in 327 the performance of their duties; or
- (b) Those governmental personnel, including personnel 328 329 of the state or its political subdivisions, as are considered 330 necessary by the Attorney General or his designee to assist in the 331 performance of their duties to enforce the criminal laws of the state; however, any person to whom matters are disclosed under 332 333 this paragraph (b) shall not utilize the state grand jury material 334 for purposes other than assisting the Attorney General or his 335 designee in the performance of their duties to enforce the 336 criminal laws of this state. The Attorney General or his 337 designees shall promptly provide the impaneling judge the names of 338 the persons to whom the disclosure has been made and shall certify 339 that he has advised these persons of their obligations of secrecy
- 341 (3) Nothing in this section affects the attorney-client
  342 relationship. A client has the right to communicate to his
  343 attorney any testimony given by the client to a state grand jury,
  344 any matters involving the client discussed in the client's
  345 presence before a state grand jury and evidence involving the
  346 client received by a proffer to a state grand jury in the client's
  347 presence.
- 348 (4) Any person violating the provisions of this section is 349 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by 350 a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by a 351 term of imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, or by both such 352 fine and imprisonment.
- 353 (5) State grand jurors, the Attorney General and his 354 designee, any interpreter used and the clerk of the state grand

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under this section.

- 355 jury shall be sworn to secrecy and also may be punished for
- 356 criminal contempt for violations of this section.
- 357 **SECTION 16.** Section 13-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 358 reenacted as follows:
- 359 13-7-31. Except for the prosecution of cases arising from
- 360 indictments issued by the state grand jury, the impaneling judge
- 361 has jurisdiction to hear all matters arising from the proceedings
- 362 of a state grand jury, including, but not limited to, matters
- 363 related to the impanelment or removal of state grand jurors, the
- 364 quashing of subpoenas and the punishment for contempt.
- 365 **SECTION 17.** Section 13-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 366 reenacted as follows:
- 367 13-7-33. The Attorney General or his designee shall
- 368 coordinate the scheduling of activities of any state grand jury.
- 369 **SECTION 18.** Section 13-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 370 reenacted as follows:
- 371 13-7-35. (1) In order to return a "True Bill" of
- 372 indictment, twelve (12) or more state grand jurors must find that
- 373 probable cause exists for the indictment and vote in favor of the
- 374 indictment. Upon indictment by a state grand jury, the indictment
- 375 shall be returned to the impaneling judge. If the impaneling
- 376 judge considers the indictment to be within the authority of the
- 377 state grand jury and otherwise in accordance with the provisions
- 378 of this chapter, he shall order the clerk of the state grand jury
- 379 to certify the indictment and return the indictment to the county
- 380 designated by the impaneling judge as the county in which the
- 381 indictment shall be tried.
- 382 (2) Indictments returned by a state grand jury are properly
- 383 triable in any county of the state where any of the alleged
- 384 conduct occurred. The impaneling judge to whom the indictment is
- 385 returned shall designate the county in which the indictment shall
- 386 be tried. If a multicount indictment returned by a state grand
- 387 jury is properly triable in a single proceeding as otherwise

- provided by law, all counts may be tried in the county designated by the impaneling judge notwithstanding the fact that different
- 390 counts may have occurred in more than one (1) county.
- 391 (3) In determining the venue for indictments returned by a
  392 state grand jury, the impaneling judge shall select the county in
  393 which the state and defendant may receive a fair trial before an
- impartial jury taking into consideration the totality of the circumstances of each case.
- 396 (4) When the indictment has been returned to the circuit
  397 clerk of the county designated by the impaneling judge, the capias
  398 shall be issued as otherwise provided by law. The indictment
  399 shall be kept secret until the defendant is in custody or has been
  400 released pending trial.
- 401 **SECTION 19.** Section 13-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 402 reenacted as follows:
- 13-7-37. If any person asks to be excused from testifying
- 404 before a state grand jury or from producing any books, papers,
- 405 records, correspondence or other documents before a state grand
- 406 jury on the ground that the testimony or evidence required of him
- 407 may tend to incriminate him or subject him to any penalty or
- 408 forfeiture and such person, notwithstanding such ground, is
- 409 directed by the impaneling judge to give the testimony or produce
- 410 the evidence, he shall comply with this direction, but no
- 411 testimony so given or evidence produced may be received against
- 412 him in any criminal action, investigation or criminal proceeding.
- 413 No individual testifying or producing evidence or documents is
- 414 exempt from prosecution or punishment for any perjury committed by
- 415 him while so testifying, and the testimony or evidence given or
- 416 produced is admissible against him upon any criminal action,
- 417 criminal investigation or criminal proceeding concerning this
- 418 perjury; however, any individual may execute, acknowledge and file
- 419 a statement with the appropriate court expressly waiving immunity
- 420 or privilege in respect to any testimony given or produced and

- 421 thereupon the testimony or evidence given or produced may be
- 422 received or produced before any judge or justice, court tribunal,
- 423 grand jury or otherwise, and if so received or produced, the
- 424 individual is not entitled to any immunity or privilege on account
- 425 of any testimony he may give or evidence produced.
- 426 **SECTION 20.** Section 13-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 427 reenacted as follows:
- 428 13-7-39. Records, orders and subpoenas related to state
- 429 grand jury proceedings shall be kept under seal to the extent and
- 430 for the time that is necessary to prevent disclosure of matters
- 431 occurring before a state grand jury.
- 432 **SECTION 21.** Section 13-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 433 reenacted as follows:
- 434 13-7-41. The Attorney General shall make available suitable
- 435 space for state grand juries to meet. The Mississippi Department
- 436 of Public Safety and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics may
- 437 provide such services as required by the Attorney General and the
- 438 state grand juries.
- 439 **SECTION 22.** Section 13-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 440 reenacted as follows:
- 13-7-43. The Supreme Court may promulgate rules as are
- 442 necessary for the operation of the state grand jury system
- 443 established by this chapter.
- SECTION 23. Section 13-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 445 reenacted as follows:
- 446 13-7-45. If any part of this chapter is declared invalid,
- 447 unenforceable or unconstitutional by a court of competent
- 448 jurisdiction, that part shall be severable from the remaining
- 449 portions of this chapter, which portions shall remain in full
- 450 force and effect as if the invalid, unenforceable or
- 451 unconstitutional portion were omitted.
- 452 **SECTION 24.** Section 13-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 453 reenacted as follows:

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- 454 13-7-47. This chapter applies to offenses committed both
- 455 before and after its effective date.
- 456 **SECTION 25.** Section 13-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 457 reenacted as follows:
- 458 13-7-49. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as
- 459 amending, repealing or superseding any other law of this state
- 460 governing the powers and duties of county grand jurors, district
- 461 attorneys or law enforcement agencies or other officials with
- 462 regard to their authority to investigate, indict or prosecute
- 463 offenses that are prescribed by this chapter as within the
- 464 jurisdiction of the state grand jury.
- SECTION 26. Section 99-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 466 reenacted and amended as follows:
- 99-11-3. (1) The local jurisdiction of all offenses, unless
- 468 otherwise provided by law, shall be in the county where committed.
- 469 But, if on the trial the evidence makes it doubtful in which of
- 470 several counties, including that in which the indictment or
- 471 affidavit alleges the offense was committed, such doubt shall not
- 472 avail to procure the acquittal of the defendant.
- 473 (2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section shall
- 474 not apply to indictments returned by a state grand jury. The
- 475 venue of trials for indictments returned by a state grand jury
- 476 shall be as provided by the State Grand Jury Act. This subsection
- 477 shall stand repealed from and after July 1, 2007.
- 478 **SECTION 27.** Section 27, Chapter 553, Laws of 1993, as
- 479 amended by Chapter 382, Laws of 1998, as amended by Chapter 480,
- 480 Laws of 1999, as amended by Chapter 471, Laws of 2002, is amended
- 481 as follows:
- Section 27. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 483 and after its passage, and, with the exception of Section 22,
- 484 shall stand repealed from and after July 1, 2007.
- 485 **SECTION 28.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 486 and after July 1, 2005.
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