

By: Representative Wells-Smith

To: Juvenile Justice;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1380

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ADOLESCENT OFFENDER PROGRAMS TASK
2 FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADOLESCENT OFFENDER PROGRAMS
3 AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS STATEWIDE; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established an Adolescent Offender
7 Programs Task Force, the duties of which shall be to study the
8 implementation of adolescent offender programs and other
9 alternative programs statewide. The study shall address the
10 following areas at a minimum:

11 (a) Operations of adolescent offender programs and
12 other alternative programs;

13 (b) Costs associated with implementing adolescent
14 offender programs or other alternative programs statewide; and

15 (c) Programs and services offered by adolescent
16 offender programs and other alternative programs.

17 (2) The task force shall consist of thirteen (13) members as
18 follows:

19 (a) Three (3) administrators of adolescent offender
20 programs or other alternative programs, appointed by the Governor;

21 (b) Four (4) youth court judges, one (1) from each
22 congressional district, appointed by the Governor;

23 (c) Three (3) members of the Juvenile Justice Committee
24 of the Mississippi House of Representatives, appointed by the
25 Speaker Of the House; and

26 (d) Three (3) members of the Judiciary Committee
27 Division B of the Mississippi Senate, appointed by the Lieutenant
28 Governor.

29 (3) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a
30 chairman and vice chairman from its membership, and shall adopt
31 rules for transacting its business and keeping records. Members
32 of the task force other than the legislative members may receive
33 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred while engaged in
34 official business of the task force in accordance with Section
35 25-3-41.

36 (4) Before November 1, 2005, the task force shall make a
37 report of its work and recommendations, and it shall submit a copy
38 of the report to the Legislature and the Governor.

39 (5) The task force shall be assigned to the Division of
40 Public Safety Planning of the Department of Public Safety for
41 administrative purposes only, and the Division of Public Safety
42 Planning shall designate staff to assist the task force. The task
43 force may solicit grants, donations and other funds, and may
44 accept and expend any funds that are made available to the task
45 force to carry out its purpose. However, no state general funds
46 may be used to pay any expenses of the task force.

47 (6) All agencies, departments, offices and institutions of
48 the state, including the state universities and the community and
49 junior colleges, shall cooperate with the task force with such
50 assistance as requested by the task force.

51 (7) After the presentation of its report to the Legislature
52 and the Governor, the task force shall be dissolved.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2005.