

By: Representatives Gunn, Fleming

To: Corrections;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 672

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-1-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY SHALL NOT BE  
3 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF COSMETIC MEDICAL PROCEDURES FOR  
4 INMATES; TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-901, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
5 PROHIBIT THE REIMBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO COUNTIES FROM THE  
6 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF COSMETIC MEDICAL  
7 PROCEDURES FOR STATE OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-1-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 47-1-57. (1) When any person confined in jail shall be in  
12 need of medical or surgical aid, the sheriff shall immediately  
13 examine the condition of such prisoner and, if he is of the  
14 opinion that the prisoner needs such aid, he shall call in a nurse  
15 or physician to attend him. If the prisoner be unable to pay the  
16 cost, the account of the nurse or physician, when allowed and  
17 certified as required in respect to accounts of sheriffs for  
18 keeping prisoners, shall be paid, in like manner, out of the  
19 treasury of the county in which a prisoner is charged with the  
20 crime for which he is imprisoned. The board of supervisors may  
21 contract with a physician for the jail by the year.

22 (2) The board of supervisors of any county may authorize the  
23 sheriff to establish a program under which prisoners expressing  
24 the need for nonemergency medical attention will have access to a  
25 registered nurse who will evaluate their condition and determine  
26 the necessity for treatment by a physician. Charges for such a  
27 visit with a registered nurse shall be paid by the prisoner by  
28 deductions made by the sheriff out of any funds of the prisoner  
29 held by the sheriff or in any other manner satisfactory to the

30 sheriff; however, such prisoner shall not be required to pay out  
31 of funds of the prisoner held by the sheriff, more than ten  
32 dollars (\$10.00) per visit. If the prisoner is unable to pay the  
33 cost, the cost shall be paid out of the county treasury in the  
34 same manner as provided for payment of other medical costs in  
35 subsection (1) of this section.

36 (3) No costs for cosmetic medical procedures for prisoners  
37 shall be paid out of the county treasury. Cosmetic medical  
38 procedures means any medical procedure performed in order to  
39 change an individual's appearance without significantly serving to  
40 prevent or treat illness or disease or to promote proper  
41 functioning of the body.

42 **SECTION 2.** Section 47-5-901, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
43 amended as follows:

44 47-5-901. (1) Any person committed, sentenced or otherwise  
45 placed under the custody of the Department of Corrections, on  
46 order of the sentencing court and subject to the other conditions  
47 of this subsection, may serve all or any part of his sentence in  
48 the county jail of the county wherein such person was convicted if  
49 the Commissioner of Corrections determines that physical space is  
50 not available for confinement of such person in the state  
51 correctional institutions. Such determination shall be promptly  
52 made by the Department of Corrections upon receipt of notice of  
53 the conviction of such person. The commissioner shall certify in  
54 writing that space is not available to the sheriff or other  
55 officer having custody of the person. Any person serving his  
56 sentence in a county jail shall be classified in accordance with  
57 Section 47-5-905.

58 (2) If state prisoners are housed in county jails due to a  
59 lack of capacity at state correctional institutions, the  
60 Department of Corrections shall determine the cost for food and  
61 medical attention for such prisoners. The cost of feeding and  
62 housing offenders confined in such county jails shall be based on

63 actual costs or contract price per prisoner. In order to maximize  
64 the potential use of county jail space, the Department of  
65 Corrections is encouraged to negotiate a reasonable per day cost  
66 per prisoner, which in no event may exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)  
67 per day per offender.

68 (3) Upon vouchers submitted by the board of supervisors of  
69 any county housing persons due to lack of space at state  
70 institutions, the Department of Corrections shall pay to such  
71 county, out of any available funds, the actual cost of food, or  
72 contract price per prisoner, not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)  
73 per day per offender, as determined under subsection (2) of this  
74 section for each day an offender is so confined beginning the day  
75 that the Department of Corrections receives a certified copy of  
76 the sentencing order and will terminate on the date on which the  
77 offender is released or otherwise removed from the custody of the  
78 county jail. The department shall pay the cost for medical  
79 attention for prisoners at an amount no greater than the  
80 reimbursement rate based on the Mississippi Medicaid reimbursement  
81 rate. This limitation applies to all medical care services,  
82 durable and nondurable goods, prescription drugs and medications.  
83 Such payment shall be placed in the county general fund and shall  
84 be expended only for food and medical attention for such persons.  
85 The Department of Corrections shall not pay a county for offenders  
86 housed in county jails pending a probation or parole revocation  
87 hearing.

88 (4) The Department of Corrections shall not reimburse any  
89 county for cosmetic medical procedures obtained by any state  
90 offenders. Cosmetic medical procedures means any medical  
91 procedure performed in order to change an individual's appearance  
92 without significantly serving to prevent or treat illness or  
93 disease or to promote proper functioning of the body.

94 (5) A person, on order of the sentencing court, may serve  
95 not more than twenty-four (24) months of his sentence in a county

96 jail if the person is classified in accordance with Section  
97 47-5-905 and the county jail is an approved county jail for  
98 housing state inmates under federal court order. The sheriff of  
99 the county shall have the right to petition the Commissioner of  
100 Corrections to remove the inmate from the county jail. The county  
101 shall be reimbursed in accordance with subsection (2).

102 (6) The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi shall  
103 defend the employees of the Department of Corrections and  
104 officials and employees of political subdivisions against any  
105 action brought by any person who was committed to a county jail  
106 under the provisions of this section.

107 (7) This section does not create in the Department of  
108 Corrections, or its employees or agents, any new liability,  
109 express or implied, nor shall it create in the Department of  
110 Corrections any administrative authority or responsibility for the  
111 construction, funding, administration or operation of county or  
112 other local jails or other places of confinement which are not  
113 staffed and operated on a full-time basis by the Department of  
114 Corrections. The correctional system under the jurisdiction of  
115 the Department of Corrections shall include only those facilities  
116 fully staffed by the Department of Corrections and operated by it  
117 on a full-time basis.

118 (8) An offender returned to a county for post-conviction  
119 proceedings shall be subject to the provisions of Section 99-19-42  
120 and the county shall not receive the per day allotment for such  
121 offender after the time prescribed for returning the offender to  
122 the Department of Corrections as provided in Section 99-19-42.

123 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
124 and after July 1, 2006.