

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 905
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL HURRICANE KATRINA FUNDS
3 FOR ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
9 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
10 districts:

11 (a) First Circuit Court District..... eight (8)
12 legal assistants.

13 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... nine (9)
14 legal assistants.

15 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... five (5)
16 legal assistants.

17 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
18 legal assistants.

19 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
20 legal assistants.

21 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
22 legal assistants.

23 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
24 legal assistants.

25 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
26 legal assistants.

27 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
28 legal assistants.

29 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
30 legal assistants.

31 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... five (5)
32 legal assistants.

33 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
34 legal assistants.

35 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
36 legal assistants.

37 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
38 legal assistants.

39 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
40 legal assistants.

41 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
42 legal assistants.

43 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.... six (6)
44 legal assistants.

45 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
46 legal assistants.

47 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
48 legal assistants.

49 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
50 legal assistants.

51 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District... two (2)
52 legal assistants.

53 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.. two (2)
54 legal assistants.

55 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
56 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
57 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
58 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
59 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
60 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
61 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one

62 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
63 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
64 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
65 district pursuant to this subsection:

66 (a) First Circuit Court District..... two (2)
67 legal assistants.

68 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... two (2)
69 legal assistants.

70 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... two (2)
71 legal assistants.

72 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
73 legal assistants.

74 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
75 legal assistants.

76 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
77 legal assistants.

78 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)
79 legal assistants.

80 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
81 legal assistants.

82 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
83 legal assistants.

84 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
85 legal assistants.

86 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)
87 legal assistants.

88 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
89 legal assistants.

90 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
91 legal assistants.

92 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
93 legal assistants.

94 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

95 legal assistants.

96 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

97 legal assistants.

98 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

99 legal assistants.

100 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

101 legal assistants.

102 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

103 legal assistants.

104 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

105 legal assistants.

106 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.... two (2)

107 legal assistants.

108 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District... two (2)

109 legal assistants.

110 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
 111 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
 112 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
 113 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
 114 this section.

115 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
 116 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
 117 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
 118 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
 119 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
 120 district attorney's office receives federal funds which may be
 121 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
 122 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
 123 positions. Such funds shall be transferred by the district
 124 attorney to the Department of Finance and Administration, which
 125 shall disburse the funds to such employees in the same manner as
 126 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
 127 assistants.

128 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
129 and after July 1, 2006.