

By: Representative Chism

To: Judiciary A;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 252

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANT FOR THE SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT  
3 COURT DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal  
8 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court  
9 districts:

- 10 (a) First Circuit Court District..... eight (8)
- 11 legal assistants.
- 12 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... nine (9)
- 13 legal assistants.
- 14 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... five (5)
- 15 legal assistants.
- 16 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
- 17 legal assistants.
- 18 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
- 19 legal assistants.
- 20 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
- 21 legal assistants.
- 22 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
- 23 legal assistants.
- 24 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
- 25 legal assistants.
- 26 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
- 27 legal assistants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

40                   (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....           five (5)  
41 legal assistants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

94 legal assistants.

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

96 legal assistants.

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

98 legal assistants.

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

100 legal assistants.

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

102 legal assistants.

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

104 legal assistants.

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

106 legal assistants.

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

108 legal assistants.

109           (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a

110 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits

111 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the

112 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to

113 this section.

114           (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may

115 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or

116 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal

117 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators

118 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the

119 district attorney's office receives federal funds which may be

120 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of

121 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the

122 positions. Such funds shall be transferred by the district

123 attorney to the Department of Finance and Administration, which

124 shall disburse the funds to such employees in the same manner as

125 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal

126 assistants.

127           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
128 and after January 1, 2009.