

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 805

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-3-27 AND 9-4-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
2 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE SALARY LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN SUPPORT STAFF  
3 MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 9-3-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 9-3-27. (1) The Justices of the Supreme Court are  
9 authorized and empowered to employ such number of secretaries,  
10 legal research assistants and other support staff as the court may  
11 deem necessary for its efficient operation, provided, that legal  
12 research assistants \* \* \* shall be qualified members of The  
13 Mississippi \* \* \* Bar, or qualified for admission thereto \* \* \*.  
14 They shall each receive a salary to be fixed by the Justices of  
15 the Supreme Court, through an order entered on the minutes of the  
16 court, within the appropriation for the payment of \* \* \* salaries  
17 in the Supreme Court. The salaries of the legal research  
18 assistants shall not exceed the salary of a district attorney, as  
19 set forth in Section 25-3-35, as follows:

20 (a) Director, central legal staff, a salary not to  
21 exceed the salary of a district attorney.

22 (b) Editor of Supreme Court Opinions, a salary not to  
23 exceed the salary of a district attorney.

24 (c) Senior staff attorney with fifteen (15) years or  
25 more experience, a salary not to exceed ninety percent (90%) of  
26 the salary of a district attorney.

27           (d) Senior staff attorney with eight (8) to fifteen  
28 (15) years of experience, a salary not to exceed eighty-five  
29 percent (85%) of the salary of a district attorney.

30           (e) Senior staff attorney with four (4) to eight (8)  
31 years of experience, a salary not to exceed eighty percent (80%)  
32 of the salary of a district attorney.

33           (f) Law clerk with four (4) to eight (8) years of  
34 experience, a salary not to exceed sixty percent (60%) of the  
35 salary of a district attorney.

36           (g) Law clerk with less than four (4) years of  
37 experience, a salary not to exceed fifty-five percent (55%) of the  
38 salary of a district attorney.

39           (2) Support staff members, upon entering into the discharge  
40 of their duties, shall take an oath to be administered by one of  
41 the justices of the court that they will faithfully discharge the  
42 duties of said office and that they will not disclose the secrets  
43 or deliberations of the court, and they shall be removed at the  
44 pleasure of the court. The support staff members shall be paid on  
45 a certificate by the Chief Justice or by a justice appointed by  
46 the Chief Justice to so act to the auditor of public accounts, who  
47 shall issue a warrant for the amount or amounts so certified to  
48 the state treasurer.

49           **SECTION 2.** Section 9-4-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
50 amended as follows:

51           9-4-13. (1) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall  
52 receive salaries as provided \* \* \* in Section 25-3-35, shall be  
53 reimbursed for mileage expenses incurred in performing their  
54 duties at the rate authorized by law for public officials and  
55 employees as provided \* \* \* in Section 25-3-41, and shall receive  
56 an expense allowance as provided \* \* \* in Section 25-3-43.

57           (2) Staff attorneys, senior staff attorneys, law clerks and  
58 all other employees of the Court of Appeals shall be of the same

59 grade classification and bear the same salary restrictions as  
60 Supreme Court employees performing the same or similar duties.

61       **SECTION 3.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
62 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
63 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
64 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
65 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
66 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
67 extended.

68       **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
69 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
70 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.