

By: Representative Franks

To: Judiciary A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1526

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 7-5-58, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE DEFENDANTS WHO ARE SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION BY THE PUBLIC  
3 INTEGRITY UNIT OF THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PAY THE  
4 COST OF INVESTIGATION IN ADDITION TO OTHER PENALTIES IF CONVICTED  
5 OF THE VIOLATION INVESTIGATED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section

8 7-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 7-5-58. (1) In addition to any criminal penalties, the  
10 court may assess a defendant convicted of a violation investigated  
11 by the Public Integrity Unit of the Office of the Attorney General  
12 including, but not limited to, investigations by the Cyber Crime  
13 Division or the Vulnerable Adult Division, the reasonable costs of  
14 the investigation. The court must first find that the imposition  
15 of sanctions under this section will not impose a financial  
16 hardship on persons to whom the payor owes a duty of support.  
17 Costs should be paid to the Office of the Attorney General and  
18 include, but are not limited to, the cost of investigators,  
19 service of process, court reporters, expert witnesses and  
20 attorney's fees expended by the Public Integrity Unit in the  
21 investigation of such case.

22 (2) Any additional monetary penalty assessed and levied  
23 under this section shall be deposited one-half (1/2) to the credit  
24 of the State General Fund and one-half (1/2) to the Office of the  
25 Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General may  
26 institute and maintain proceedings in his name for enforcement of  
27 payment in the circuit court of the county of residence of the  
28 defendant and, if the defendant is a nonresident, such proceedings

29 shall be in the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District of  
30 Hinds County, Mississippi.

31           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
32 and after its passage.