

By: Representative Franks

To: Judiciary A

## 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 shall assess a defendant convicted of a violation  
11 investigated by the Public Integrity Unit of the Office of the  
12 Attorney General including, but not limited to, investigations by  
13 the Cyber Crime Division, the Child Support Division or the  
14 Vulnerable Adult Division, double the reasonable costs of the  
15 investigation. Costs should be paid to the Office of the Attorney  
16 General and include, but are not limited to, the cost of  
17 investigators, service of process, court reporters, expert  
18 witnesses and attorney's fees expended by the Public Integrity  
19 Unit in the investigation of such case.

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

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