

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Corrections;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2146

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF LONG-TERM
2 PRISONERS, REDUCTION OF COSTS OF INCARCERATION OF LONG-TERM
3 PRISONERS, ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION, AND SUCCESSFUL LONG-TERM
4 RELEASE PROGRAMS SUCH AS LIFE LINE; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT TO THE
5 2007 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby created a task force to
8 conduct a study of long-term prisoners, ways to reduce the costs
9 of incarceration, alternatives to incarceration that ensure the
10 highest level of public safety in Mississippi and to study the
11 successful long-term release programs such as Life Line in Canada.
12 The membership of the task force shall include the following
13 thirteen (13) members:

14 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Corrections Committee,
15 who will serve as temporary chairman of the task force;

16 (b) One (1) member of the Senate appointed by the
17 Lieutenant Governor;

18 (c) The Chairman of the House of Representatives
19 Corrections Committee;

20 (d) One (1) member of the House appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House;

22 (e) Three (3) members appointed by the Governor;

23 (f) The Commissioner of Corrections;

24 (g) The Chairman of the Parole Board;

25 (h) The State Auditor, or his designee; and

26 (i) The Attorney General, or his designee.

27 (2) The task force shall make a report of its findings and
28 recommendations, including necessary legislation, to the

29 Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor for
30 implementation in the 2008 Regular Session.

31 (3) The temporary chairman of the task force shall call a
32 meeting within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this bill
33 and the task force shall elect a chairman from its membership, in
34 addition to such other officers as it may deem appropriate. A
35 majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a
36 quorum. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings,
37 such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date
38 on which a meeting is to be held.

39 (4) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid from
40 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the
41 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the
42 Legislature is not in session. Nonlegislative members of the task
43 force shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses in
44 attending called meetings of the task force, to be paid from any
45 funds made available for such purpose by the Legislature.

46 (5) Upon presentation of its final report, the task force
47 shall be dissolved.

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