COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2541

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 Executive Director of the

47 Department of Finance and Administration, who shall issue a

48 warrant for the amount or amounts so certified to the State

49 Treasurer.

50   SECTION 2. Section 9-4-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

51 amended as follows:

52   9-4-13. (1) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall

53 receive salaries as provided * * * in Section 25-3-35, shall be

54 reimbursed for mileage expenses incurred in performing their

55 duties at the rate authorized by law for public officials and

56 employees as provided * * * in Section 25-3-41, and shall receive

57 an expense allowance as provided * * * in Section 25-3-43.

58   (2) Staff attorneys, senior staff attorneys, law clerks and

59 all other employees of the Court of Appeals shall be of the same

60 grade classification <u>and bear the same salary restrictions</u> as

61 Supreme Court employees performing the same or similar duties.

62   **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

63 and after July 1, 2007.

S. B. No. 2541   * SS26/ R786CS*
07/SS26/R786CS   ST: Courts; establish salary parameters for
PAGE 3   certain staff of the Supreme Court and Court of
                      Appeals.