

By: Senator(s) Doxey

To: Corrections

SENATE BILL NO. 2584

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-142, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MERITORIOUS EARNED  
3 TIME THAT MAY BE EARNED BY AN OFFENDER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-142, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 47-5-142. (1) In order to provide incentive for offenders  
8 to achieve positive and worthwhile accomplishments for their  
9 personal benefit or the benefit of others, and in addition to any  
10 other administrative reductions of the length of an offender's  
11 sentence, any offender shall be eligible, subject to the  
12 provisions of this section, to receive meritorious earned time as  
13 distinguished from earned time for good conduct and performance.

14 (2) Subject to approval by the commissioner of the terms and  
15 conditions of the program or project, meritorious earned time may  
16 be awarded for the following: (a) successful completion of  
17 educational or instructional programs; (b) satisfactory  
18 participation in work projects; and (c) satisfactory participation  
19 in any special incentive program.

20 (3) The programs and activities through which meritorious  
21 earned time may be received shall be published in writing and  
22 posted in conspicuous places at all facilities of the department  
23 and such publication shall be made available to all offenders in  
24 the custody of the department.

25 (4) The commissioner shall make a determination of the  
26 number of days of reduction of sentence which may be awarded an  
27 offender as meritorious earned time for participation in approved

28 programs or projects; the number of days shall be determined by  
29 the commissioner on the basis of each particular program or  
30 project. However, in no event shall an offender be awarded in  
31 excess of ten (10) days reduction for each thirty (30) days of  
32 participation in such a program or project. \* \* \* The  
33 commissioner may authorize the awarding of all or any part of  
34 meritorious earned time upon an offender's entry into the  
35 correctional system.

36 (5) No offender shall be awarded any meritorious earned time  
37 while assigned to the maximum security facilities for disciplinary  
38 purposes.

39 (6) All meritorious earned time shall be forfeited by the  
40 offender in the event of escape and/or aiding and abetting an  
41 escape.

42 (7) Any officer or employee of the department who shall  
43 willfully violate the provisions of this section and be convicted  
44 therefor shall be removed from office or employment.

45 (8) An offender may forfeit all or any part of his  
46 meritorious earned time allowance for just cause upon the written  
47 order of the commissioner or his designee. Any meritorious earned  
48 time allowance forfeited under this section shall not be restored  
49 nor shall it be re-earned by the offender.

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