

## House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2545

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

### AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6           **SECTION 1.** Section 25-32-71, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8           25-32-71. (1) There is created the Mississippi Public  
9 Defender Task Force which shall be composed of thirteen (13)  
10 members as follows:

11           (a) The President of the Mississippi Public Defender  
12 Association, or his designee;

13           (b) The President of the Mississippi Prosecutors  
14 Association, or his designee;

15           (c) A representative of the Administrative Office of  
16 Courts;

17           (d) A representative of the Mississippi Supreme Court;

18           (e) A representative of the Conference of Circuit  
19 Judges;

20           (f) A representative of the Mississippi Attorney  
21 General's Office;

22           (g) A representative of the Mississippi Association of  
23 Supervisors;

24           (h) A representative of the Mississippi Bar;

25           (i) A representative of the Magnolia Bar;

26           (j) The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, or  
27 his designee;

28           (k) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations  
29 Committee, or his designee;

30           (l) The Chairman of the House Judiciary En Banc  
31 Committee, or his designee;

32           (m) The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee,  
33 or his designee.

34           (2) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a  
35 chairman and vice chairman from its membership and shall adopt  
36 rules for transacting its business and keeping records. Members  
37 of the task force shall receive a per diem in the amount provided  
38 in Section 25-3-69 for each day engaged in the business of the  
39 task force. Members of the task force other than the legislative  
40 members shall receive reimbursement for travel expenses incurred  
41 while engaged in official business of the task force in accordance  
42 with Section 25-3-41 and the legislative members of the task force  
43 shall receive the expense allowance provided for in Section  
44 5-1-47.

45           (3) The duties of the task force shall be to:

46           (a) Make a comprehensive study of the needs by circuit  
47 court districts for state-supported indigent defense counsel,  
48 examining existing public defender programs. Reports shall be  
49 provided to the Legislature each year at least one (1) month  
50 before the convening of the regular session.

51           (b) Examine and study approaches taken by other states  
52 in the implementation and costs of state-supported indigent  
53 criminal cases.

54           (c) To study the relationship between presiding circuit  
55 court judges and the appointment of criminal indigent defense  
56 counsel.

57           (4) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2011.

58           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2007.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1           AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-32-71, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 WHICH CREATES THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC DEFENDER TASK FORCE, REVISE  
3 THE MEMBERSHIP AND TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THIS SECTION;  
4 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

HR07\SB2545A.J

Don Richardson  
Clerk of the House of Representatives