

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Cmte Sub for House Bill No. 728

BY: Representative Wells-Smith

1 **AMEND** after line 64 by inserting the following language:
2 (4) Each county court judge who desires to employ support
3 staff after the effective date of this act shall make application
4 to the Administrative Office of Courts by submitting to the
5 Administrative Office of Courts a proposed personnel plan setting
6 forth what support staff is deemed necessary. Such plan may be
7 submitted by a single judge or by any combination of judges
8 desiring to share support staff. In the process of the
9 preparation of the plan, the judges, at their request, may receive
10 advice, suggestions, recommendations and other assistance from the
11 Administrative Office of Courts. The Administrative Office of
12 Courts must approve the positions, job descriptions and salaries
13 before the positions may be filled. The Administrative Office of
14 Courts shall not approve any plan which does not first require the
15 expenditure of the funds in the support staff fund for
16 compensation of any of the support staff before expenditure is
17 authorized of county funds for that purpose. Upon approval by the
18 Administrative Office of Courts, the judge or judges may appoint
19 the employees to the position or positions, and each employee so
20 appointed will work at the will and pleasure of the judge or
21 judges who appointed him but will be employees of the
22 Administrative Office of Courts. Upon approval by the

23 Administrative Office of Courts, the appointment of any support
24 staff shall be evidenced by the entry of an order on the minutes
25 of the court. When support staff is appointed jointly by two (2)
26 or more judges, the order setting forth any appointment shall be
27 entered on the minutes of each participating court.

28 (5) The Administrative Office of Courts shall develop and
29 promulgate minimum qualifications for the certification of court
30 administrators. Any court administrator appointed on or after the
31 effective date of this act, shall be required to be certified by
32 the Administrative Office of Courts.

33 (6) Support staff shall receive compensation pursuant to
34 personnel policies established by the Administrative Office of
35 Courts; however, from and after the effective date of this act,
36 the Administrative Office of Courts shall allocate from the
37 support staff fund an amount of Sixty Thousand Dollars
38 (\$60,000.00) per fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) per judge
39 for whom support staff is approved for the funding of support
40 staff assigned to a judge or judges. Any employment pursuant to
41 this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of Section
42 25-1-53.

43 The Administrative Office of Courts may approve expenditure
44 from the fund for additional equipment for support staff appointed
45 pursuant to this section in any year in which the allocation per
46 judge is sufficient to meet the equipment expense after provision
47 for the compensation of the support staff.

48 (7) For the purposes of this section, the following terms
49 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly
50 requires otherwise:

51 (a) "Support staff" means court administrators, law
52 clerks, legal research assistants or secretaries, resource
53 administrator and/or case managers appointed by a youth court

54 judge, or any combination thereof, but shall not mean school
55 attendance officers; and

56 (b) "Compensation" means the gross salary plus all
57 amounts paid for benefits or otherwise as a result of employment
58 or as required by employment; provided, however, that only salary
59 earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited for
60 Public Employees' Retirement System purposes. Amounts paid for
61 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel
62 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement
63 purposes.

64 (8) Title to all tangible property, excepting stamps,
65 stationery and minor expendable office supplies, procured with
66 funds authorized by this section, shall be and forever remain in
67 the State of Mississippi to be used by the judge during the term
68 of his office and thereafter by his successors.

69
70 **AMEND FURTHER** the title by inserting the following language
71 after the semicolon on line 3: "TO INCLUDE COUNTY COURT JUDGES
72 AMONG THOSE FOR WHOM AN OFFICE ALLOWANCE IS APPROPRIATED;"