

By: Senator(s) Longwitz

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2451

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 43-53-5 AND 43-53-7, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON  
3 AGING TO ESTABLISH A SENIOR CRIMES NETWORK SYSTEM TO PROVIDE  
4 INVESTIGATIVE AND LEGAL SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE SENIOR CITIZENS;  
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 43-53-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 43-53-5. (1) The \* \* \* Mississippi Leadership Council on  
10 Agging shall advise the Department of Public Safety, sheriffs and  
11 other local law enforcement agencies, senior advocates chosen in  
12 consultation with the Area Agencies on Aging, and American  
13 Association of Retired Persons representatives in the study and  
14 evaluation of "TRIAD Programs" as an effective response to the  
15 problems of crime against elderly persons.

16 (2) The council may consult with experts, service providers,  
17 and representative organizations engaged in the protection of the  
18 elderly and may recommend the development of "TRIAD Programs" in  
19 the State of Mississippi to assist the elderly to avoid criminal



20 victimization through the coordinated efforts of state, county and  
21 local law enforcement agencies and organizations which provide  
22 services for the elderly.

23 (3) The council may recommend policies and programs to  
24 assist law enforcement agencies to implement "TRIAD Programs,"  
25 including training and crime prevention standards and technical  
26 assistance. Such recommendations may include the following:

27 (a) The establishment of a statewide central  
28 clearinghouse for information and education materials.

29 (b) The development of innovative community police  
30 programs for the elderly.

31 (c) The provision of assistance by the council in the  
32 development and delivery of training for law enforcement  
33 professionals involved in the "TRIAD Programs," including, but not  
34 limited to, the following subjects:

35 (i) Crimes against the elderly and the protection  
36 of elderly persons.

37 (ii) Police sensitivity to the needs of elderly  
38 persons as victims, witnesses or victims of "vicarious  
39 victimization," which impairs the quality of life.

40 (iii) Availability of social and human services.

41 (d) The provision of assistance to state and local law  
42 enforcement officials and to nonprofit corporations and  
43 organizations with respect to effective policies and responses to  
44 crime against elderly persons.



45 (e) The promotion and facilitation of cooperation among  
46 state agencies and local government.

47 (f) The promotion of effective advocacy services to  
48 protect and assist elderly persons and elderly victims of crime.

49 (g) The evaluation of the relationship between crimes  
50 against elderly persons and other problems confronting elderly  
51 persons and the making of recommendations for effective policy  
52 responses.

53 (h) The collection of statistical data and research.

54 (i) The establishment of rules and regulations  
55 necessary to carry out the above.

56 For purposes of this act, "TRIAD Program" means the triad  
57 cooperative model developed by the American Association of Retired  
58 Persons, the National Sheriff's Association and the International  
59 Association of Chiefs of Police, which calls for the participation  
60 of the sheriff, at least one (1) police chief, at least one (1)  
61 member of the American Association of Retired Persons and a  
62 representative of at least one (1) senior citizens' organization  
63 within a county and may include participation by coalitions of law  
64 enforcement, victims' services and senior citizen advocate  
65 organizations. If there is not both a sheriff and a police chief  
66 in a county or if the sheriff or a police chief does not  
67 participate, a TRIAD may include in the place of the sheriff or  
68 police chief other members of the criminal justice system, such as  
69 a district attorney.



70           (4) The Mississippi Leadership Council on Aging is  
71 authorized to establish a Mississippi Senior Protection Unit in  
72 the Division of Aging and Adult Services, pursuant to specific  
73 appropriation by the Legislature, to protect and serve Mississippi  
74 senior citizens and to investigate and prosecute crimes against  
75 Mississippi vulnerable senior citizens and elder abuse. "Elder  
76 abuse" for these purposes, is defined as mental, physical, sexual  
77 and financial crimes committed against those persons over the age  
78 of sixty (60) occurring in the State of Mississippi. The Unit  
79 shall provide the following services:

80           (a) Establish a Senior Crimes Network Program;

81           (b) Train rural law enforcement in senior crime  
82 investigation and successful criminal prosecution;

83           (c) Offer legal advice from a licensed attorney or law  
84 student referred by the Mississippi College or University of  
85 Mississippi School of Law;

86           (d) Establish a statewide toll free help line and  
87 on-line service for the reporting of elder abuse;

88           (e) Raise awareness and recognition of senior crime  
89 issues to the public;

90           (f) Enter into an agreement with Hinds Community  
91 College for administrative, office, travel and training services  
92 for the senior crime network program;

93           (g) Solicit private donor and foundation funding to  
94 continue the senior crimes network services.



95           **SECTION 2.** Section 43-53-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
96 amended as follows:

97           43-53-7. In addition to any other powers conferred upon the  
98 council elsewhere or by other law, the council shall assist in the  
99 coordination, development and delivery of training to law  
100 enforcement professionals involved in the "TRIAD Programs,"  
101 including, but not limited to, the following subjects:

102                   (a) Crimes against the elderly and the protection of  
103 elderly persons.

104                   (b) Police sensitivity to the needs of elderly persons  
105 as victims, as witnesses or as victims of "vicarious  
106 victimization" which conditions impair their quality of life.

107                   (c) Monitoring of all reported cases of elder abuse  
108 within the state.

109                   (d) Availability of social/human services.

110                   (e) The council is authorized to implement the  
111 provisions of this section through the services of the Senior  
112 Crimes Network System established under Section 43-53-5(4).

113           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
114 and after July 1, 2014.

