

By: Representative Smith

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 959

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE TO DESIGNATE  
 2 AN ATTORNEY ON STAFF WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO PROSECUTE  
 3 CRIMINAL MATTERS AND CASES INVESTIGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT; TO  
 4 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER TO REQUEST THE SERVICES OR ASSISTANCE  
 5 OF ANY DISTRICT ATTORNEY OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN AND ABOUT SUCH  
 6 MATTERS OR SUITS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DESIGNATED ATTORNEY SHALL  
 7 HAVE THE SAME RIGHT AS THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ENTER THE GRAND  
 8 JURY ROOM WHILE THE GRAND JURY IS IN SESSION AND TO PERFORM SUCH  
 9 SERVICES WITH REFERENCE TO THE WORK OF THE GRAND JURY AS THE  
 10 DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO PERFORM; AND FOR RELATED  
 11 PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) The commissioner may designate an attorney  
 14 on staff with the department to prosecute criminal matters and  
 15 cases investigated by the department and may request the services  
 16 or assistance of any district attorney or the Attorney General in  
 17 and about such matters or suits. The designated attorney shall  
 18 have the same right as the district attorney to enter the grand  
 19 jury room while the grand jury is in session and to perform such  
 20 services with reference to the work of the grand jury as the  
 21 district attorney is authorized by law to perform.



22           (2) This section shall not diminish the powers of local  
23 authorities or the Attorney General to investigate or prosecute  
24 any type of violation or other criminal conduct under their  
25 jurisdiction.

26           **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in  
27 Chapter 3, Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972.

28           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
29 and after July 1, 2017.

