

By: Representatives White, Sykes

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 889

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-32-71, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC
3 DEFENDER TASK FORCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 25-32-71. (1) There is created the Mississippi Public
8 Defender Task Force which shall be composed of thirteen (13)
9 members as follows:

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

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

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

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

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



- 19 (f) A representative of the Mississippi Attorney
20 General's Office;
- 21 (g) A representative of the Mississippi Association of
22 Supervisors;
- 23 (h) A representative of The Mississippi Bar;
- 24 (i) A representative of the Magnolia Bar Association;
- 25 (j) The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee,
26 Division B, or his designee;
- 27 (k) The Chairman of the Senate Appropriations
28 Committee, or his designee;
- 29 (l) The Chairman of the House Judiciary En Banc
30 Committee, or his designee;
- 31 (m) The Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee,
32 or his designee.

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



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

45 (a) Make a comprehensive study of the needs by circuit
46 court districts for state-supported indigent defense counsel to
47 examine existing public defender programs, including indigent
48 defense provided in the youth courts. Reports shall be provided
49 to the Legislature each year at least one (1) month before the
50 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 and delinquency cases.

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

57 (4) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, * * * 2021.

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
59 and after July 1, 2018.

