

By: Representatives Gunn, McLean

To: Judiciary B

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1328

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI WARRANTS TASK FORCE; TO  
2 PROVIDE THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE DUTIES FOR THE  
3 TASK FORCE; TO REQUIRE A REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TASK  
4 FORCE TO THE SPEAKER OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BY A CERTAIN DATE; TO PROVIDE HOW  
6 MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE COMPENSATED; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Warrants  
10 Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to study: how  
11 warrants are issued in the state, the procedural elements of knock  
12 and announce warrants, the number of injuries, if any, that have  
13 occurred when executing warrants in the state, and the  
14 geographical locations of such executions and injuries occurred.

15 (2) The Mississippi Warrants Task Force shall be composed of  
16 the following members:

17 (a) The Commissioner of the Department of Public  
18 Safety, who shall serve as chair;

19 (b) Executive Director of the Mississippi Bureau of  
20 Narcotics, or his or her designee;



(c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Police Chiefs;

(d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Prosecutor's Association;

(e) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Sheriff's Association;

(f) The Director of the Office of State Public Defender;

(g) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives;

(h) One (1) member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and

(i) One (1) member appointed from the Bureau of Investigations by the Commissioner of the Department of Safety.

(3) The Mississippi Warrants Task Force shall have the following duties, to:

(a) Study how warrants are issued throughout the state;

(b) Study all entities who are authorized to issue warrants, and provide a list of such entities;

(c) Provide all documented circumstances in which warrants are issued in the state;

(d) Study the number of injuries, if any, incurred when executing warrants in the state;

(e) Create standards for issuing and executing warrants, which shall include knock and announce warrants;



46 (f) Make recommendations regarding procedures for knock  
47 and announce warrants to the Speaker of the Mississippi House of  
48 Representatives and the Lieutenant Governor by October 1, 2021.

49 (4) The members of the task force shall serve at the will  
50 and pleasure of their respective appointing authorities. A  
51 majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a  
52 quorum for the transaction of business.

53 (5) (a) The task force shall hold its first meeting no  
54 later than fifteen (15) days after July 1, 2021. At its first  
55 meeting, the task force shall adopt rules for transacting its  
56 business and keeping records.

57 (b) The task force shall meet and conduct business at  
58 least once a month. All meetings of the task force and any  
59 committees of the task force will be open to the public, with  
60 opportunities for public comment provided on a regular basis.  
61 Notice of all meetings shall be given as provided in the Open  
62 Meetings Act Section 25-41-1 et seq. and appropriate notice also  
63 shall be given to all persons so requesting of the date, time and  
64 place of each meeting.

65 (c) The task force is assigned to the Mississippi  
66 Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only, and  
67 the department shall designate staff to assist the task force.

68 (6) Members of the task force who are not state officials or  
69 state employees may be compensated at the per diem rate authorized  
70 by Section 25-3-69 and may be reimbursed in accordance with



71 Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the  
72 performance of their duties. If legislative members are appointed  
73 to the task force, they will be paid from the contingent expense  
74 funds of their respective houses in the same manner as provided  
75 for committee meetings when the Legislature is not in session.  
76 However, legislative members will not be paid per diem or expenses  
77 for attending meetings of the task force while the Legislature is  
78 in session. No task force member may incur per diem, travel or  
79 other expenses unless previously authorized by vote, at a meeting  
80 of the task force, which action must be recorded in the official  
81 minutes of the meeting. Non-legislative members may be paid from  
82 any funds made available to the task force for that purpose.

83       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
84 and after July 1, 2021.

