

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Jackson (11th)

To: County Affairs

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2630

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES TO USE COLLECTED FUNDS FOR  
3 TECHNOLOGICAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ONLINE  
4 SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES AND ELECTRONIC RECORDS; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 19-7-31. (1) (a) The board of supervisors of each county  
10 in the state shall have power, by an appropriate order or orders  
11 on its minutes, to establish and maintain in the county courthouse  
12 or other suitable public building adjacent or near thereto, a  
13 public county law library under such rules, regulations and  
14 supervision as it may from time to time ordain and establish, and  
15 to that end, the board may accept gifts, grants, donations or  
16 bequests of money, furniture, fixtures, books, documents, maps,  
17 plats or other property suitable for that purpose.

18 (b) The board of supervisors shall have power to  
19 exchange or sell duplicate volumes or sets of any such books or



20 furniture, and in case of sale, to invest the proceeds in other  
21 suitable books or furniture. The board may also purchase or lease  
22 from time to time additional books, furniture, or equipment for  
23 the public law library.

24 (c) The board of supervisors may also maintain the  
25 books prescribed under this section in an electronic format.

26 (2) For the purpose of providing suitable quarters for the  
27 public law library, the board of supervisors may, in its  
28 discretion, expend such sums as may be deemed necessary or proper  
29 for that purpose, and may also employ a suitable person as  
30 librarian and pay the law librarian such salary as the board, in  
31 its discretion, may determine. The board may employ additional  
32 librarians or other employees on either a part-time or full-time  
33 basis and may pay these additional employees as the board, in its  
34 discretion, may determine. The board of supervisors, in their  
35 discretion, may contract with the county or municipal library for  
36 any staff or facilities as they deem necessary for the overall  
37 management and operation of the county law library. The board of  
38 supervisors may contract with the State Law Library for law  
39 library services that may be offered by the State Law Library.

40 (3) If the public law library is established, all books,  
41 documents, furniture and other property then belonging to the  
42 county library, as provided for in Section 19-7-25, shall be  
43 transferred to and become part of the public law library, and all  
44 books, documents and publications donated by the state to the



45 county library shall also become a part of the public law library.  
46 In that case, Sections 19-7-25 and 19-25-65, relating to the  
47 county library, shall be superseded in that county for as long as  
48 the public law library is maintained in the county.

49 (4) The board of supervisors of any county that establishes  
50 a public law library, in its discretion, may levy, by way of  
51 resolution, additional court costs not exceeding Two Dollars and  
52 Fifty Cents (\$2.50) per case for each case, both civil and  
53 criminal, filed in the chancery, circuit and county courts or any  
54 of these in the county, and may levy, by way of resolution,  
55 additional court costs not exceeding One Dollar and Fifty Cents  
56 (\$1.50) per case for each case, both civil and criminal, filed in  
57 the justice courts of the county, for the support of the library  
58 authorized in the county. If the additional court costs  
59 authorized in this section are levied, the clerk or judge of those  
60 courts shall collect those costs for all cases filed in his court  
61 and forward same to the chancery clerk, who shall deposit the same  
62 in a special account in a county depository for support and  
63 maintenance of the library, and the chancery clerk shall be  
64 accountable for those funds. However, no such levy shall be made  
65 against any cause of action the purpose of which is to commit any  
66 person with mental illness, or alcoholic or narcotic addiction to  
67 any institution for custodial or medical care, and no such tax  
68 shall be collected under this subsection on any cause of action  
69 that the proper clerk handling same deems to be in its very nature



70 charitable and in which cause the clerk has not collected his own  
71 legal fees.

72 (5) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the board of  
73 supervisors may enter into such arrangement or arrangements with  
74 the county bar association of any such county as may seem  
75 advisable for the care and operation of the law library, and the  
76 board may receive and consider, from time to time, such  
77 recommendations as the bar association may deem appropriate  
78 regarding the library.

79 (6) The board of supervisors of each county in which there  
80 are two (2) judicial districts, in its discretion, may maintain a  
81 law library in each judicial district. In those counties the  
82 board, in its discretion, may pay from the county general fund or  
83 from the special fund authorized in this section all the costs  
84 authorized in this section, provided that the board shall not  
85 spend in each judicial district less than the amount of the  
86 special court costs authorized in this section and collected in  
87 each such district.

88 (7) The governing authorities of any municipality, in their  
89 discretion, by resolution duly adopted and entered on their  
90 official minutes, may levy additional court costs not exceeding  
91 One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per case for each conviction in  
92 the municipal court of the municipality, for the support and  
93 maintenance of the county law library in the county within which  
94 the municipality is located. The additional costs shall be



95 collected by the clerk of the court, forwarded to the chancery  
96 clerk of the county for deposit in a special account in the county  
97 depository, and expended for support and maintenance of the county  
98 law library in the same manner and in accordance with the same  
99 procedure as provided for costs similarly collected in the  
100 chancery, circuit, county and justice courts of the county.

101 (8) Funds collected under this section may also be used for  
102 electronic and technological purposes related to the law library,  
103 including, but not limited to, computers, hardware, software,  
104 internet, online subscription services, legal research tools and  
105 electronic records.

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

