

By: Representatives Read, Shanks, Stamps,
Anthony, Foster

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL APPOINTED CRIMINAL
3 INVESTIGATORS FOR CERTAIN DISTRICT ATTORNEYS; TO INCREASE THE
4 SALARY OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS; TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-10.1,
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; AND
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 **[Until January 1, 2023, this section shall read as follows:]**

11 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
12 criminal investigator.

13 (2) The district attorneys of the * * * Fifth, Sixth, Ninth,
14 Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth,
15 Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth * * *, Twentieth, Twenty-first
16 and Twenty-second Circuit Court Districts may appoint one (1)
17 additional full-time criminal investigator for a total of two (2)
18 full-time criminal investigators.

19 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
20 Fourth * * * and Nineteenth Circuit Court Districts may appoint



21 two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a total of
22 three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

23 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
24 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
25 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
26 investigators.

27 (* * *5) No district attorney or assistant district
28 attorney shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal,
29 in any matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

30 (* * *6) The full and complete compensation for all public
31 duties rendered by * * * the criminal investigators shall be not
32 more than * * * Sixty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
33 (\$69,500.00) per annum, to be determined at the discretion of the
34 district attorney based upon the qualifications, education and
35 experience of the criminal investigator, plus necessary travel and
36 other expenses, to be paid in accordance with Section 25-31-8.
37 However, the maximum salary under this subsection for a criminal
38 investigator who has a law degree may be supplemented by the
39 district attorney from other available funds, but not to exceed
40 the maximum salary for a legal assistant to a district attorney.

41 (* * *7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
42 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
43 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of
44 1972. The total expenses associated with attendance by criminal
45 investigators at the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program



46 shall be paid out of the funds of the appropriate district
47 attorney.

48 (* * *8) The district attorney shall be authorized to
49 assign the duties of criminal investigators regardless of the
50 source of funding for such criminal investigators.

51 **[From and after January 1, 2023, this section shall read as**
52 **follows:]**

53 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
54 criminal investigator.

55 (2) The district attorneys of the * * * Fifth, Sixth, Ninth,
56 Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth,
57 Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first,
58 Twenty-second and Twenty-third Circuit Court Districts may appoint
59 one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for a total of
60 two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

61 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
62 Fourth * * * and Nineteenth Circuit Court Districts may appoint
63 two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a total of
64 three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

65 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
66 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
67 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
68 investigators.



69 (* * *5) No district attorney or assistant district
70 attorney shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal,
71 in any matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

72 (* * *6) The full and complete compensation for all public
73 duties rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more
74 than * * * Sixty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$69,500.00)
75 per annum, to be determined at the discretion of the district
76 attorney based upon the qualifications, education and experience
77 of the criminal investigator, plus necessary travel and other
78 expenses, to be paid in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However,
79 the maximum salary under this subsection for a criminal
80 investigator who has a law degree may be supplemented by the
81 district attorney from other available funds, but not to exceed
82 the maximum salary for a legal assistant to a district attorney.

83 (* * *7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
84 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
85 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses
86 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law
87 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the
88 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

89 (* * *8) The district attorney shall be authorized to
90 assign the duties of criminal investigators regardless of the
91 source of funding for such criminal investigators.

92 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-31-10.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
93 amended as follows:



94 25-31-10.1. In addition to the salaries, expenses and fringe
95 benefits of district attorneys and legal assistants authorized by
96 Section 25-3-35(5) and (6) and criminal investigators authorized
97 by Section 25-31-10(* * *6), the salary of a district attorney
98 may be supplemented in an amount not to exceed Eight Thousand
99 Three Hundred Dollars (\$8,300.00) per year; the salary of a legal
100 assistant may be supplemented in an amount not to exceed Six
101 Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) per year; and the salary of a
102 criminal investigator may be supplemented in an amount not to
103 exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) per year, payable
104 monthly. The supplemental salary, expenses and fringe benefits
105 authorized herein may be paid from office-generated funds, funds
106 from a county, a combination of counties, a municipality, a
107 combination of municipalities, a county and a municipality, a
108 combination of counties and municipalities, federal funds, grants
109 from private foundations, or by means of an Interlocal Cooperative
110 Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1. The district attorney
111 shall report to the board of supervisors of each county comprising
112 the circuit court district the amount and source of the
113 supplemental salary, expenses and fringe benefits, and the board
114 in each county shall spread the same on its minutes. The district
115 attorney shall also report such information to the Department of
116 Finance and Administration who shall make such information
117 available to the Legislative Budget Office. The supplemental
118 salary, expenses and fringe benefits may either be paid from



119 district attorney accounts, transferred by the district attorney
120 to the Department of Finance and Administration or to one or more
121 of the separate counties comprising the circuit court district,
122 and such funds shall be disbursed to the employees in the same
123 manner as state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
124 assistants.

125 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
126 and after July 1, 2022.

