

By: Representative Harness

To: Judiciary B;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 343

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION PAID TO A JUDGE APPOINTED COUNSEL FOR
3 INDIGENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 99-15-17. The compensation for counsel for indigents
8 appointed as provided in Section 99-15-15, shall be approved and
9 allowed by the appropriate judge and in any one (1) case may not
10 exceed * * * Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for representation
11 in circuit court whether on appeal or originating in said court.
12 Provided, however, if said case is not appealed to or does not
13 originate in a court of record, the maximum compensation shall not
14 exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for any one (1) case, the
15 amount of such compensation to be approved by a judge of the
16 chancery court, county court or circuit court in the county where
17 the case arises. Provided, however, in a capital case two (2)
18 attorneys may be appointed, and the compensation may not



19 exceed * * * Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) per case. If the
20 case is appealed to the state supreme court by counsel appointed
21 by the judge, the allowable fee for services on appeal shall not
22 exceed * * * Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) per case. In
23 addition, the judge shall allow reimbursement of actual expenses.
24 The attorney or attorneys so appointed shall itemize the time
25 spent in defending said indigents together with an itemized
26 statement of expenses of such defense, and shall present same to
27 the appropriate judge. The fees and expenses as allowed by the
28 appropriate judge shall be paid by the county treasurer out of the
29 general fund of the county in which the prosecution was commenced.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2023.

