

By: Representatives Sanford, Tullos

To: Judiciary B;  
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR FOR THE 13TH  
3 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time  
8 criminal investigator.

9 (2) The district attorneys of the Third, Fifth, Ninth,  
10 Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, \* \* \* Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,  
11 Seventeenth, Twentieth and Twenty-third Circuit Court Districts  
12 may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for  
13 a total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

14 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Fourth,  
15 Seventh, Thirteenth and Nineteenth Circuit Court Districts may  
16 appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a  
17 total of three (3) full-time criminal investigators.



18 (4) No district attorney or assistant district attorney  
19 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any  
20 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

21 (5) The full and complete compensation for all public duties  
22 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than  
23 Fifty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$59,500.00) per annum,  
24 to be determined at the discretion of the district attorney based  
25 upon the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal  
26 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid  
27 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary  
28 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law  
29 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other  
30 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal  
31 assistant to a district attorney.

32 (6) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the  
33 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training  
34 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses  
35 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law  
36 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the  
37 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

38 (7) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the  
39 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of  
40 funding for such criminal investigators.

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

