

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary B;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 689

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR LEGAL SERVICES
2 CORPORATION FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-72, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
3 1972, TO REVISE THE FILING FEE FOR A PETITION TO EXPUNGE AN
4 OFFENSE AND PROVIDE THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THE FEE SHALL BE
5 DEPOSITED INTO THE FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** There is created in the State Treasury a special
8 fund designated as the Mississippi Center for Legal Services
9 Corporation Fund. The fund shall be administered by the
10 Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and monies in
11 the fund shall be distributed to the various legal service centers
12 throughout the state. The fund shall consist of monies deposited
13 into the fund as provided in Section 99-19-72 and monies from any
14 other source designated for deposit into the fund. The
15 Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation Fund may also
16 accept monies from any public or private source for deposit into
17 the fund. Money remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal
18 year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest



19 earned from the investment of monies in the fund shall be
20 deposited to the credit of the fund.

21 **SECTION 2.** Section 99-19-72, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
22 amended as follows:

23 99-19-72. (1) A filing fee of * * * One Hundred Fifty-two
24 Dollars (\$152.00) is * * * levied on each petition to expunge an
25 offense under Section 99-19-71 to be collected by the circuit
26 clerk and distributed as follows:

27 (a) One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to be deposited into
28 the Judicial System Operation Fund;

29 (b) Forty Dollars (\$40.00) to be deposited into the
30 District Attorneys Operation Fund; and

31 (c) Ten Dollars (\$10.00) to be retained by the circuit
32 clerk collecting the fee for administration purposes * * * ; and

33 (d) Two Dollars (\$2.00) to be deposited into the
34 Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation Fund.

35 (2) From and after July 1, 2016, the expenses of district
36 attorneys shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State
37 General Fund and all user charges and fees authorized by
38 paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall be
39 deposited into the State General Fund as authorized by law and as
40 determined by the State Fiscal Officer, and charges and fees
41 authorized by paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section
42 shall be retained by the circuit clerks for expenditures
43 authorized by law.



44 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after July 1, 2023.

