

By: Senator(s) McLendon

To: Judiciary, Division A;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2403

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS IN THE
3 SEVENTEENTH AND TWENTY-THIRD CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
9 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
10 districts:

11 (a) First Circuit Court District.....nine (9)
12 legal assistants.

13 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....ten (10)
14 legal assistants.

15 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....five (5)
16 legal assistants.

17 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
18 legal assistants.



19 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
20 legal assistants.
21 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
22 legal assistants.
23 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....eleven (11)
24 legal assistants.
25 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
26 legal assistants.
27 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
28 legal assistants.
29 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
30 legal assistants.
31 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
32 legal assistants.
33 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
34 legal assistants.
35 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
36 legal assistants.
37 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
38 legal assistants.
39 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
40 legal assistants.
41 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
42 legal assistants.



- 43 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District... * * * four (4)
44 legal assistants.
- 45 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
46 legal assistants.
- 47 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
48 legal assistants.
- 49 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
50 legal assistants.
- 51 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....three (3)
52 legal assistants.
- 53 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....three (3)
54 legal assistants.
- 55 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District... * * * eight
56 (8) legal assistants.

57 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
58 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
59 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
60 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
61 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
62 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
63 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
64 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
65 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
66 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
67 district pursuant to this subsection:



68 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
69 legal assistants.
70 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
71 legal assistants.
72 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
73 legal assistants.
74 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
75 legal assistants.
76 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
77 legal assistants.
78 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
79 legal assistants.
80 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
81 legal assistants.
82 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
83 legal assistants.
84 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
85 legal assistants.
86 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
87 legal assistants.
88 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
89 legal assistants.
90 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
91 legal assistants.



92 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
93 legal assistants.

94 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
95 legal assistants.

96 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
97 legal assistants.

98 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
99 legal assistants.

100 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
101 legal assistants.

102 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
103 legal assistants.

104 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
105 legal assistants.

106 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
107 legal assistants.

108 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)
109 legal assistants.

110 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
111 legal assistants.

112 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
113 legal assistants.

114 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
115 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
116 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the



117 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
118 this section.

119 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
120 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
121 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
122 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
123 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
124 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
125 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
126 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
127 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
128 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
129 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
130 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
131 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
132 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
133 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
134 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
135 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
136 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
137 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
138 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
139 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
140 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
141 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the



142 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
143 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
144 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
145 Office.

146 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
147 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
148 for such legal assistants.

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

