

By: Representative Sanford

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 688

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-11-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCREASE THE JURISDICTION OF JUSTICE COURT; TO AMEND SECTION  
3 25-7-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE CERTAIN FILING FEES  
4 FOR JUSTICE COURT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-11-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 9-11-9. Justice court judges shall have jurisdiction of all  
9 actions for the recovery of debts or damages or personal property,  
10 where the principal of the debt, the amount of the demand, or the  
11 value of the property sought to be recovered shall not  
12 exceed \* \* \*~~Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500.00)~~ Five  
13 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

14 The justice court judges shall have no pecuniary interest in  
15 the outcome of any action once suit has been filed.

16 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
17 amended as follows:

18 [Until June 30, 2025, this section shall read as follows:]



19 25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be  
20 charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of  
21 the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section  
22 9-11-10:

23 (a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether  
24 contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in  
25 connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated,  
26 each \* \* \* ~~\$25.00~~..... 45.00

27 (b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of  
28 process on each defendant..... 5.00

29 (c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further  
30 proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and  
31 attachment and garnishment proceedings..... 15.00

32 (d) For all services in connection with the issuance of  
33 a peace bond..... 25.00

34 (e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate  
35 thereof 10.00

36 (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00

37 (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00

38 (h) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal cases  
39 in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:

40 (i) For all violations in Title 63 other than  
41 driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless  
42 driving..... \* \* \* ~~5.00~~ 10.00

43 (ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00



44 (2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a fee  
45 not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or  
46 dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.

47 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)  
48 of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of  
49 not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage  
50 ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice  
51 court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public.  
52 This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each  
53 justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage  
54 ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and  
55 the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage  
56 request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of  
57 the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an  
58 amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not  
59 considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the  
60 requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

61 **[From July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2026, this section shall**  
62 **read as follows:]**

63 25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be  
64 charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of  
65 the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section  
66 9-11-10:

67 (a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether  
68 contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in



69 connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated,  
70 each.....\$ \* \* \*~~25.00~~ 55.00  
71 (b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of  
72 process on each defendant..... 5.00  
73 (c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further  
74 proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and  
75 attachment and garnishment proceedings 15.00  
76 (d) For all services in connection with the issuance of  
77 a peace bond..... 25.00  
78 (e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate  
79 thereof..... 10.00  
80 (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00  
81 (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00  
82 (h) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal cases  
83 in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:  
84 (i) For all violations in Title 63 other than  
85 driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless  
86 driving..... \* \* \*~~5.00~~ 12.50  
87 (ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00  
88 (2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a  
89 fee not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or  
90 dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.  
91 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)  
92 of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of  
93 not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage



94 ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice  
95 court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public.  
96 This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each  
97 justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage  
98 ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and  
99 the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage  
100 request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of  
101 the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an  
102 amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not  
103 considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the  
104 requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

105 **[From and after July 1, 2026, this section shall read as**  
106 **follows:]**

107 25-7-25. (1) Costs and fees in the justice court shall be  
108 charged as follows and shall be paid in advance to the clerk of  
109 the justice court in accordance with the provisions of Section  
110 9-11-10:

111 (a) A uniform total fee in all civil cases, whether  
112 contested or uncontested, which shall include all services in  
113 connection therewith, except as hereinafter stated,  
114 each.....\$ \* \* \*~~25.00~~ 65.00

115 (b) For more than one (1) defendant, for service of  
116 process on each defendant..... 5.00



117 (c) After final judgment has been enrolled, further  
118 proceedings involving levy of execution on judgments, and  
119 attachment and garnishment proceedings..... 15.00

120 (d) For all services in connection with the issuance of  
121 a peace bond..... 25.00

122 (e) For celebrating a marriage, and certificate  
123 thereof..... 10.00

124 (f) Commission to take depositions..... 5.00

125 (g) Appeal with proceedings and bond..... 5.00

126 (h) A clerk's fee to be collected in all criminal cases  
127 in which the defendant is convicted, as follows:

128 (i) For all violations in Title 63 other than  
129 driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or reckless  
130 driving..... \* \* \*~~5.00~~ 15.00

131 (ii) All other criminal cases..... 25.00

132 (2) The justice court shall have the power to impose a fee  
133 not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for an expungement or  
134 dismissal of any criminal affidavit, complaint or charge.

135 (3) In addition to the salary provided for in subsection (1)  
136 of Section 25-3-36, each justice court judge may receive a fee of  
137 not more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each marriage  
138 ceremony he performs in the courtroom or offices of the justice  
139 court at any time the courtroom or offices are open to the public.  
140 This fee shall be paid by the parties to the marriage. Each  
141 justice court judge may receive money or gratuities for marriage



142 ceremonies performed outside of and away from the courtroom and  
143 the offices of the justice court, that the parties to the marriage  
144 request to have performed at any time the courtroom or offices of  
145 the justice court are closed. These monies or gratuities, in an  
146 amount agreed upon by the parties to the marriage, are not  
147 considered fees for the justice court and are not subject to the  
148 requirements set forth in the provisions of Section 9-11-10.

149       **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
150 and after July 1, 2024.

