

By: Representative Harness

To: Corrections;  
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 824

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-471, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SHALL  
3 REIMBURSE COUNTIES \$20.00 PER DAY FOR EACH OFFENDER PARTICIPATING  
4 IN A JOINT STATE-COUNTY WORK PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL COVER THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH PROVIDING MEDICAL  
6 SERVICES TO THESE OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 47-5-471, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 47-5-471. Upon the request of any county for eligible  
11 inmates, the Department of Corrections shall make available for  
12 participation in the state-county work program in the requesting  
13 county any eligible inmates. Upon request and approval of such  
14 request by the Department of Corrections, the requesting county  
15 shall arrange for transportation of such inmates from the  
16 Department of Corrections to such county. Upon receiving any  
17 inmates, the county shall be responsible for all expenses related  
18 to housing and caring for such inmates but shall be reimbursed by  
19 the Department of Corrections at the rate prescribed under \* \* \*  
20 this section.



21       (2) Upon vouchers submitted by the board of supervisors of a  
22 county housing offenders for the joint state-county work program,  
23 the department shall pay to the county, out of any available  
24 funds, at least Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per day per offender for  
25 each day an offender participates in the program. Payment shall  
26 begin the day that the department receives a certified copy of the  
27 sentencing order and shall terminate on the day that the offender  
28 is released or otherwise removed from the program.

29       (3) The department or its contracted medical provider will  
30 pay a medical service provider the cost associated with providing  
31 medical services for offenders in the joint state-county work  
32 program. The amount shall be based upon negotiated fees as agreed  
33 to by the medical care service providers and the department and/or  
34 its contracted medical provider. In the absence of a negotiated  
35 discounted fee schedule, medical care service providers will be  
36 paid by the department or its contracted medical service provider  
37 at an amount no greater than the reimbursement rate applicable  
38 based on the Mississippi Medicaid reimbursement rate. The county  
39 board of supervisors shall not be liable for any cost associated  
40 with medical attention for offenders in the work program that  
41 exceeds the Mississippi Medicaid reimbursement rate or the  
42 reimbursement provided by the Department of Corrections, whichever  
43 is greater. This limitation applies to all medical care services,  
44 durable and nondurable goods, prescription drugs and medications.



45           (4) Any payment made to a county, pursuant to this section,  
46 shall be placed in the general fund of the county.

47           (5) Regardless of any eligibility criteria established by  
48 the Department of Corrections, no inmate convicted of a sex crime,  
49 a crime of violence as defined by Section 97-3-2, or any other  
50 crime which specifically prohibits parole shall be eligible for  
51 participation in the program. The requesting county may, in its  
52 sole discretion, refuse any inmate deemed to present an undue risk  
53 to such county.

54           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
55 and after July 1, 2024.

