

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1024

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-77, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO RECOVER
3 INVESTIGATIVE COSTS FROM A DEFENDANT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-19-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 99-19-77. In addition to any criminal penalties or fines,
8 the court may impose an assessment against a defendant convicted
9 of a felony violation, or a Class I violation that is punishable
10 as provided in Section 49-7-141, investigated by the Office of the
11 Attorney General, the district attorneys, sheriffs, the
12 Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, the Mississippi Department of
13 Human Services, Office of Inspector General, Fraud Investigative
14 Unit, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi
15 Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, the Mississippi
16 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and municipal police
17 departments which may cover all reasonable costs of the
18 investigation. Costs are to be paid to the appropriate



19 governmental entity incurring the particular item of cost and
20 include, but are not limited to, the cost of investigators,
21 service of process, court reporters, expert witnesses and
22 attorney's fees, and transportation costs expended by the
23 governmental entity in the investigation of such case, and must be
24 used to augment the governmental entity's existing budget and not
25 to supplant it.

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

