

By: Senator(s) Hickman

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2787

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "STATEWIDE INTERVENTION COURTS TASK
2 FORCE" TO EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATEWIDE INTERVENTION
3 COURT; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK FORCE AND PROVIDE
4 FOR ITS ORGANIZATION; TO PROVIDE FOR A REPORT BY THE TASK FORCE;
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established the "Statewide
8 Intervention Courts Task Force" to develop a recommendation to the
9 Legislature and the Mississippi Supreme Court relative to revising
10 Mississippi's general laws, Rules of Court or both to implement a
11 statewide intervention court.

12 (2) The members of the Task Force shall be as follows:

13 (a) The Chairs of the Judiciary A Committees of the
14 Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi House of Representatives;

15 (b) One (1) designee of the Mississippi Supreme Court
16 to be named by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

17 (c) One (1) designee of the Mississippi Court of
18 Appeals to be named by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;



19 (d) Two (2) sitting circuit court judges to be named by
20 the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

21 (e) Two (2) practicing attorneys in the State of
22 Mississippi with expertise in the area of intervention courts, one
23 (1) from each of the federal judicial districts to be named by the
24 Mississippi Bar Association;

25 (f) One (1) practicing attorney who is a general
26 practitioner with expertise in the area of intervention courts and
27 who practices in a firm with five (5) or fewer licensed attorneys
28 to be named by the Mississippi Bar Association;

29 (g) One (1) attorney who is a prosecuting attorney to
30 be named by the Mississippi Prosecutors Association;

31 (h) One (1) attorney who is a public defender to be
32 named by the Office of State Public Defender;

33 (i) One (1) person sentenced and released from the
34 jurisdiction of an intervention court to be named by the
35 Mississippi Bar Association;

36 (j) One (1) designee of the Administrative Office of
37 Courts to be named by the executive director of the office;

38 (k) One (1) professor of law with expertise in
39 intervention courts to be named by the Dean of the University of
40 Mississippi School of Law; and

41 (l) One (1) professor of law with expertise in
42 intervention courts to be named by the Dean of the Mississippi
43 College School of Law.



44 (3) The Task Force shall meet within forty-five (45) days of
45 the effective date of this act, upon the call of the Governor, and
46 shall evaluate the implementation of a statewide intervention
47 court. Specifically the Task Force shall make recommendations
48 based on a review of the following:

49 (a) The need for a statewide intervention court;

50 (b) The models of intervention courts used by the
51 various states;

52 (c) The functioning of the current intervention courts
53 in Mississippi;

54 (d) Standards for intervention court policies and
55 procedures including the certification process;

56 (e) The number of individual intervention courts needed
57 throughout a statewide intervention court;

58 (f) Procedures and policies needed to transfer the
59 existing intervention courts into an established statewide
60 intervention court;

61 (g) The appropriate funding mechanism for a statewide
62 intervention court; and

63 (h) Any other matters related to the implementation of
64 a statewide intervention court.

65 (4) The Task Force may request the assistance of the
66 University of Mississippi School of Law and the Mississippi
67 College School of Law, the Mississippi Judicial College, the
68 Mississippi Administrative Office of Courts, the Joint Legislative



69 Budget Office, the PEER Committee and the proper section of the
70 Mississippi Bar Association, or any other related organization
71 with expertise in intervention courts.

72 (5) The members of the Task Force shall elect a Chair from
73 among the members. The Task Force shall develop and report its
74 findings and recommendations for proposed legislation to the
75 Legislature and proposed rule changes to the Mississippi Supreme
76 Court on or before December 1, 2024. A quorum of the membership
77 shall be required to approve any final report and recommendation.
78 Members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for necessary travel
79 expense in the same manner as public employees are reimbursed for
80 official duties from any available funds and members of the
81 Legislature shall be reimbursed in the same manner as for
82 attending out-of-session committee meetings.

83 (6) The Mississippi Bar Association and the Mississippi
84 Judicial College shall provide necessary clerical support for the
85 meetings of the Task Force and the preparation of the report.
86 Proposed legislation shall be prepared by the Legislative Services
87 Offices of the Senate and House as requested.

88 (7) Upon presentation of its report the Task Force shall be
89 dissolved.

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

