

By: Representative Summers

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 560

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON EXECUTING A WARRANT AT A
2 RESIDENCE, HOME, APARTMENT, ROOM, BUILDING OR PREMISES OR ANY
3 OTHER DWELLING PLACE UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE TO GIVE
4 APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF THE IDENTITY, AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE OF THE
5 OFFICER TO THE PERSON TO BE SEARCHED OR ARRESTED BEFORE ENTERING
6 SUCH, OR TO THE PERSON IN APPARENT CONTROL OF THE PREMISES TO BE
7 SEARCHED; TO REQUIRE THE EXECUTING OFFICER TO READ AND GIVE A COPY
8 OF THE WARRANT TO THE PERSON TO BE SEARCHED OR ARRESTED, OR TO THE
9 PERSON IN APPARENT CONTROL OF THE PREMISES TO BE SEARCHED; TO
10 REQUIRE ALL WARRANTS TO BE EXECUTED WITHIN THE PERIOD AND AT THE
11 TIMES AUTHORIZED BY THE WARRANT; TO LIMIT THE ISSUANCE OF NO-KNOCK
12 WARRANTS TO THE COUNTY COURT OR COUNTY JUDGE IN VACATION, CHANCERY
13 COURT OR BY THE CHANCELLOR IN VACATION, BY THE CIRCUIT COURT OR
14 CIRCUIT JUDGE IN VACATION, OR BY A JUSTICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI
15 SUPREME COURT; TO AMEND SECTION 41-29-157, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
16 1972, TO REMOVE THE REPEALED PROVISIONS REGARDING NO-KNOCK
17 WARRANTS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 99-3-1 AND 99-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
18 1972, WHICH GOVERN WARRANTLESS ARRESTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TO
19 CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 7-1-21,
20 7-5-67 AND 7-7-211, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE THE
21 POWERS AND DUTIES OF INVESTIGATORS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING
22 SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
23 PROVIDES THE POWERS OF THE COUNTY JUDGE, TO CONFORM TO THE
24 PRECEDING; TO AMEND SECTION 21-23-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
25 WHICH REGULATES OPERATIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT, TO CONFORM TO
26 THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 27-69-59, MISSISSIPPI
27 CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
28 COMMISSIONER TO REQUEST ISSUANCE OF WARRANTS, TO CONFORM TO THE
29 PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 41-29-153, 41-29-159 AND
30 41-29-161, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE ARRESTS
31 SUBJECT TO VIOLATIONS OF THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
32 PROVISIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND
33 SECTIONS 43-13-221 AND 43-13-229, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
34 REGULATE THE MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT, TO CONFORM TO THE



PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 45-11-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
1972, WHICH REGULATES THE STATE CHIEF DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL AND
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHALS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS;
TO AMEND SECTION 47-5-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES
FOR THE POWERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, TO
CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 49-1-43 AND
49-15-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE THE AUTHORITY
OF CONSERVATION OFFICERS' AUTHORITY TO ARREST, TO CONFORM TO THE
PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 67-1-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
1972, WHICH REGULATES SEARCH AND ARREST FOR VIOLATION OF ALCOHOL
PROVISIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION
69-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE LIVESTOCK
THEFT BUREAU, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND
SECTION 93-29-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES
ARRESTS DUE TO LIVESTOCK THEFT, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING
SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-3-54.7 AND 97-17-4, MISSISSIPPI
CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE ARRESTS RELATED TO SEIZURE OF
PROPERTY, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION
97-21-101, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES TRADEMARK
VIOLATIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND
SECTIONS 97-37-23, 97-43-9 AND 99-3-2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
WHICH REGULATE SEARCH AND SEIZURE PROVISIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE
PRECEDING SECTION; TO AMEND SECTION 99-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
1972, WHICH REGULATES CERTAIN SEARCH WARRANTS, TO CONFORM TO THE
PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 99-27-15 AND 99-27-21,
MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE THE FORM OF CERTAIN
WARRANTS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION
11-43-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES UNLAWFUL
DETAINMENT, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION
19-25-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES A SHERIFF'S
AUTHORITY TO ARREST, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO
AMEND SECTION 23-15-941, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES
VIOLATIONS AND ARRESTS SUBJECT TO THE ELECTION PROVISIONS, TO
CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 27-7-79,
27-13-65, 27-19-133, 27-19-135 AND 27-19-136, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
1972, WHICH REGULATE ARRESTS RELATED TO CERTAIN LIENS, TO CONFORM
TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 27-65-91, 33-13-21,
33-13-321, 33-13-615 AND 33-13-623, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
WHICH REGULATE ARRESTS BY SPECIAL AGENTS AND MILITARY COURTS, TO
CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 33-15-41,
MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES CERTAIN WARRANTLESS
ARRESTS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION
41-21-93, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES THE ARRESTS OF
CERTAIN PATIENTS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND
SECTION 43-21-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES CHILD
CUSTODY ORDERS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND
SECTIONS 45-3-21 AND 45-27-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
REGULATE CERTAIN CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN, TO CONFORM TO THE
PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 45-33-33 AND 45-33-63,
MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE SEX OFFENDERS, TO CONFORM
TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 47-7-27, MISSISSIPPI



CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES PROCEDURES FOR PAROLE REVOCATION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 49-5-47 AND 49-5-115, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE CORPORATE CRIMES, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-45, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES OYSTER LAW ENFORCEMENT, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 51-9-175, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES THE AUTHORITY OF THE PEARL RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 59-21-127, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES THE BOAT AND WATER SAFETY ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 63-9-23, 63-17-5 AND 65-1-131, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE CERTAIN VIOLATIONS OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROVISIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 67-1-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES VIOLATIONS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PROVISIONS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 77-7-335 AND 77-9-505, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE ENFORCEMENT BY PUBLIC UTILITIES AND RAILROAD OFFICERS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 93-9-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES PATERNITY, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-19-75 AND 97-19-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE RESTITUTION CENTERS, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 99-3-18, 99-3-19, 99-3-21 AND 99-3-28, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATE ARRESTS INCIDENT TO VARIOUS CRIMES, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 99-20-17, 99-21-1, 99-33-3 AND 99-37-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE ARREST FOR CERTAIN DEFAULTS AND CONTEMPT, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) When executing any warrant in or at a residence, home, apartment, room, building or premises or any other dwelling place under the laws of this state, the executing officer shall, before entering the premises, give appropriate notice of the identity, authority and purpose of the officer to the person to be searched or arrested, or to the person in apparent control of the premises to be searched.

(2) The executing officer shall read and give a copy of the warrant to the person to be searched or arrested, or to the person in apparent control of the premises to be searched. If the



premises are unoccupied or there is no one in apparent control,
the officer shall leave a copy of the warrant suitably affixed to
the premises.

(3) All warrants shall only be executed within the period
and at the times authorized by the warrant and only by a police
officer. A police officer charged with its execution may be
accompanied by such other persons as may be reasonably necessary
for the successful execution of the warrant with all practicable
safety.

SECTION 2. Section 41-29-157, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

41-29-157. (a) Except as otherwise provided in
Section * * * 1 of this act, issuance and execution of
administrative inspection warrants and search warrants shall be as
follows, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section:

(1) A judge of any state court of record, or any
justice court judge within his jurisdiction, and upon proper oath
or affirmation showing probable cause, may issue warrants for the
purpose of conducting administrative inspections authorized by
this article or rules thereunder, and seizures of property
appropriate to the inspections. For purposes of the issuance of
administrative inspection warrants, probable cause exists upon
showing a valid public interest in the effective enforcement of
this article or rules thereunder, sufficient to justify
administrative inspection of the area, premises, building or



conveyance in the circumstances specified in the application for the warrant. All such warrants shall be served during normal business hours;

(2) A search warrant shall issue only upon an affidavit of a person having knowledge or information of the facts alleged, sworn to before the judge or justice court judge and establishing the grounds for issuing the warrant. If the judge or justice court judge is satisfied that grounds for the application exist or that there is probable cause to believe they exist, he shall issue a warrant identifying the area, premises, building or conveyance to be searched, the purpose of the search, and, if appropriate, the type of property to be searched, if any. The warrant shall:

(A) State the grounds for its issuance and the name of each person whose affidavit has been taken in support thereof;

(B) Be directed to a person authorized by Section 41-29-159 to execute it;

(C) Command the person to whom it is directed to inspect the area, premises, building or conveyance identified for the purpose specified, and if appropriate, direct the seizure of the property specified;

(D) Identify the item or types of property to be seized, if any;

(E) Direct that it be served and designate the judge or magistrate to whom it shall be returned;



176 (3) A warrant issued pursuant to this section must be
177 executed and returned within ten (10) days of its date unless,
178 upon a showing of a need for additional time, the court orders
179 otherwise. If property is seized pursuant to a warrant, a copy
180 shall be given to the person from whom or from whose premises the
181 property is taken, together with a receipt for the property taken.
182 The return of the warrant shall be made promptly, accompanied by a
183 written inventory of any property taken. The inventory shall be
184 made in the presence of the person executing the warrant and of
185 the person from whose possession or premises the property was
186 taken, if present, or in the presence of at least one (1) credible
187 person other than the person executing the warrant. A copy of the
188 inventory shall be delivered to the person from whom or from whose
189 premises the property was taken and to the applicant for the
190 warrant;

191 (4) The judge * * * who has issued a warrant shall
192 attach thereto a copy of the return and all papers returnable in
193 connection therewith and file them with the clerk of the
194 appropriate state court for the judicial district in which the
195 inspection was made.

196 (b) The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the State Board of
197 Pharmacy, the State Board of Medical Licensure, the State Board of
198 Dental Examiners, the Mississippi Board of Nursing or the State
199 Board of Optometry may make administrative inspections of
200 controlled premises in accordance with the following provisions:



(1) For purposes of this section only, "controlled premises" means:

(A) Places where persons registered or exempted from registration requirements under this article are required to keep records; and

(B) Places including factories, warehouses, establishments and conveyances in which persons registered or exempted from registration requirements under this article are permitted to hold, manufacture, compound, process, sell, deliver, or otherwise dispose of any controlled substance.

(2) When authorized by an administrative inspection warrant issued in accordance with the conditions imposed in this section and Section 1 of this act, an officer or employee designated by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Medical Licensure, the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Mississippi Board of Nursing or the State Board of Optometry, upon presenting the warrant and appropriate credentials to the owner, operator or agent in charge, may enter controlled premises for the purpose of conducting an administrative inspection.

(3) When authorized by an administrative inspection warrant, an officer or employee designated by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Medical Licensure, the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Mississippi Board of Nursing or the State Board of Optometry may:



226 (A) Inspect and copy records required by this
227 article to be kept;

228 (B) Inspect, within reasonable limits and in a
229 reasonable manner, controlled premises and all pertinent
230 equipment, finished and unfinished material, containers and
231 labeling found therein, and, except as provided in paragraph (5)
232 of this subsection, all other things therein, including records,
233 files, papers, processes, controls and facilities bearing on
234 violation of this article; and

235 (C) Inventory any stock of any controlled
236 substance therein and obtain samples thereof.

237 (4) This section does not prevent the inspection
238 without a warrant of books and records pursuant to an
239 administrative subpoena, nor does it prevent entries and
240 administrative inspections, including seizures of property,
241 without a warrant:

242 (A) If the owner, operator or agent in charge of
243 the controlled premises consents;

244 (B) In situations presenting imminent danger to
245 health or safety;

246 (C) In situations involving inspection of
247 conveyances if there is reasonable cause to believe that the
248 mobility of the conveyance makes it impracticable to obtain a
249 warrant;



(D) In any other exceptional or emergency circumstance where time or opportunity to apply for a warrant is lacking; or

(E) In all other situations in which a warrant is not constitutionally required.

(5) An inspection authorized by this section shall not extend to financial data, sales data, other than shipment data, or pricing data unless the owner, operator or agent in charge of the controlled premises consents in writing.

* * *

SECTION 3. Section 99-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-3-1. (1) Arrests for crimes and offenses may be made by the sheriff or his or her deputy or by any constable or conservator of the peace within his or her county, or by any marshal or policeman of a city, town or village within the same, or by any United States Marshal or Deputy United States Marshal, or, when in cooperation with local law enforcement officers, by any other federal law enforcement officer who is employed by the United States government, authorized to effect an arrest for a violation of the United States Code, and authorized to carry a firearm in the performance of his or her duties. Private persons may also make arrests.

(2) (a) Any person authorized by a court of law to supervise or monitor a convicted offender who is under an



intensive supervision program may arrest the offender when the offender is in violation of the terms or conditions of the intensive supervision program, without having a warrant if:

(i) The arrest is authorized or ordered by a judge of the court;

(ii) The person making the arrest has been trained at the Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy established under Section 45-5-1 et seq. or at a course approved by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training; and

(iii) The judge identifies the person making the arrest in his or her order and a copy of the order is served upon the person being arrested.

(b) For the purposes of * * * this subsection (2), the term "intensive supervision program" means an intensive supervision program of the Department of Corrections as described in Section 47-5-1001 et seq., of any similar program authorized by a court for offenders who are not under jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections.

(3) Any arrests made under the provisions of this section shall comply with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 4. Section 99-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-3-7. (1) An officer or private person may arrest any person without warrant, for an indictable offense committed, or a breach of the peace threatened or attempted in his presence; or



when a person has committed a felony, though not in his presence; or when a felony has been committed, and he has reasonable ground to suspect and believe the person proposed to be arrested to have committed it; or on a charge, made upon reasonable cause, of the commission of a felony by the party proposed to be arrested. And in all cases of arrests without warrant, the person making such arrest must inform the accused of the object and cause of the arrest in compliance with Section 1 of this act, except when he is in the actual commission of the offense, or is arrested on pursuit.

(2) Any law enforcement officer may arrest any person on a misdemeanor charge without having a warrant in his possession when a warrant is in fact outstanding for that person's arrest and the officer has knowledge through official channels that the warrant is outstanding for that person's arrest. In all such cases, the officer making the arrest must inform such person at the time of the arrest the object and cause therefor in compliance with Section 1 of this act. If the person arrested so requests, the warrant shall be shown to him as soon as practicable.

(3) (a) Any law enforcement officer shall arrest a person with or without a warrant when he has probable cause to believe that the person has, within twenty-four (24) hours of such arrest, knowingly committed a misdemeanor or felony that is an act of domestic violence or knowingly violated provisions of a criminal domestic violence or sexual assault protection order issued



pursuant to Section 97-3-7(11), 97-3-65(6) or 97-3-101(5) or an ex parte protective order, protective order after hearing or court-approved consent agreement entered by a chancery, circuit, county, justice or municipal court pursuant to the Protection from Domestic Abuse Law, Sections 93-21-1 through 93-21-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, or a restraining order entered by a foreign court of competent jurisdiction to protect an applicant from domestic violence.

(b) If a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that two (2) or more persons committed an act of domestic violence as defined herein, or if two (2) or more persons make complaints of domestic violence to the officer, the officer shall attempt to determine who was the principal aggressor. The term principal aggressor is defined as the party who poses the most serious ongoing threat, or who is the most significant, rather than the first, aggressor. The officer shall presume that arrest is not the appropriate response for the person or persons who were not the principal aggressor. If the officer affirmatively finds more than one (1) principal aggressor was involved, the officer shall document those findings.

(c) To determine which party was the principal aggressor, the officer shall consider the following factors, although such consideration is not limited to these factors:

(i) Evidence from the persons involved in the domestic abuse;



(ii) The history of domestic abuse between the parties, the likelihood of future injury to each person, and the intent of the law to protect victims of domestic violence from continuing abuse;

(iii) Whether one (1) of the persons acted in self-defense; and

(iv) Evidence from witnesses of the domestic violence.

(d) A law enforcement officer shall not base the decision of whether to arrest on the consent or request of the victim.

(e) A law enforcement officer's determination regarding the existence of probable cause or the lack of probable cause shall not adversely affect the right of any party to independently seek appropriate remedies.

(4) (a) Any person authorized by a court of law to supervise or monitor a convicted offender who is under an intensive supervision program may arrest the offender when the offender is in violation of the terms or conditions of the intensive supervision program, without having a warrant, provided that the person making the arrest has been trained at the Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy established under Section 45-5-1 et seq., or at a course approved by the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training.



(b) For the purposes of this subsection, the term "intensive supervision program" means an intensive supervision program of the Department of Corrections as described in Section 47-5-1001 et seq., or any similar program authorized by a court for offenders who are not under jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections.

(5) As used in subsection (3) of this section, the phrase "misdemeanor or felony that is an act of domestic violence" shall mean one or more of the following acts between current or former spouses or a child of current or former spouses, persons living as spouses or who formerly lived as spouses or a child of persons living as spouses or who formerly lived as spouses, a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or someone similarly situated to the defendant, persons who have a current or former dating relationship, or persons who have a biological or legally adopted child together:

(a) Simple or aggravated domestic violence within the meaning of Section 97-3-7;

(b) Disturbing the family or public peace within the meaning of Section 97-35-9, 97-35-11, 97-35-13 or 97-35-15; or

(c) Stalking within the meaning of Section 97-3-107.

(6) Any arrest made pursuant to subsection (3) of this section shall be designated as domestic assault or domestic violence on both the arrest docket and the incident report. Any officer investigating a complaint of a misdemeanor or felony that



399 is a crime of domestic violence who finds probable cause that such
400 an offense has occurred within the past twenty-four (24) hours
401 shall file an affidavit on behalf of the victim(s) of the crime,
402 regardless of whether an arrest is made within that time period.
403 If the crime is reported or investigated outside of that
404 twenty-four-hour period, the officer may file the affidavit on
405 behalf of the victim. In the event the officer does not file an
406 affidavit on behalf of the victim, the officer shall instruct the
407 victim of the procedure for filing on his or her own behalf.

408 (7) A law enforcement officer shall not be held liable in
409 any civil action for an arrest based on probable cause and in good
410 faith pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, or failure, in
411 good faith, to make an arrest pursuant to subsection (3) of this
412 section.

413 (8) The authority for the State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal
414 and deputy state fire marshals to make arrests shall be governed
415 by the provisions of Section 45-11-1.

416 **SECTION 5.** Section 7-1-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
417 amended as follows:

418 7-1-21. Investigators and other personnel, employed by the
419 Governor pursuant to Section 7-1-19, shall have full power to
420 investigate, apprehend, or arrest any person, firm, corporation,
421 or any combination or conspiracy thereof committing said acts of
422 violence, or threats of violence, or intimidations, or acts of
423 terror, or damaging, injuring, or destroying property as a result



of acts of violence or terror, in any manner whatever, and to help indict or prosecute, or both, in all such cases. Such investigators or other personnel so employed by the Governor, in the performance of their duties under Sections 7-1-19 through 7-1-23, are authorized and empowered to carry firearms and to serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the authority of the State of Mississippi in compliance with Section 1 of this act; to make arrests without warrant in such cases where the person making the arrest has reasonable grounds to believe that the person so arrested is guilty of any of the offenses herein named and there is a likelihood of the person escaping before a warrant can be obtained for his or her arrest, but the person arrested shall be immediately taken before a committing officer; to acquire, collect, classify, and preserve records and evidence obtained hereunder; and to make all lawful searches and seizures to obtain evidence of such acts, when based upon reasonable grounds or probable cause that such is necessary in the accomplishment of the purposes of the aforesaid sections.

SECTION 6. Section 7-5-67, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

7-5-67. Persons employed by the Attorney General as investigators in the Public Integrity Division whose primary responsibility is the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals and the enforcement of the criminal laws of this state shall be empowered to make arrests and to serve and



execute search warrants and other valid legal process anywhere within the State of Mississippi in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 7. Section 7-7-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

7-7-211. The department shall have the power and it shall be its duty:

(a) To identify and define for all public offices of the state and its subdivisions generally accepted accounting principles or other accounting principles as promulgated by nationally recognized professional organizations and to consult with the State Fiscal Officer in the prescription and implementation of accounting rules and regulations;

(b) To provide best practices, for all public offices of regional and local subdivisions of the state, systems of accounting, budgeting and reporting financial facts relating to said offices in conformity with legal requirements and with generally accepted accounting principles or other accounting principles as promulgated by nationally recognized professional organizations; to assist such subdivisions in need of assistance in the installation of such systems; to revise such systems when deemed necessary, and to report to the Legislature at periodic times the extent to which each office is maintaining such systems, along with such recommendations to the Legislature for improvement as seem desirable;



474 (c) To study and analyze existing managerial policies,
475 methods, procedures, duties and services of the various state
476 departments and institutions upon written request of the Governor,
477 the Legislature or any committee or other body empowered by the
478 Legislature to make such request to determine whether and where
479 operations can be eliminated, combined, simplified and improved;

480 (d) To postaudit each year and, when deemed necessary,
481 preaudit and investigate the financial affairs of the departments,
482 institutions, boards, commissions, or other agencies of state
483 government, as part of the publication of a comprehensive annual
484 financial report for the State of Mississippi, or as deemed
485 necessary by the State Auditor. In complying with the
486 requirements of this paragraph, the department shall have the
487 authority to conduct all necessary audit procedures on an interim
488 and year-end basis;

489 (e) To postaudit and, when deemed necessary, preaudit
490 and investigate separately the financial affairs of (i) the
491 offices, boards and commissions of county governments and any
492 departments and institutions thereof and therein; (ii) public
493 school districts, departments of education and junior college
494 districts; and (iii) any other local offices or agencies which
495 share revenues derived from taxes or fees imposed by the State
496 Legislature or receive grants from revenues collected by
497 governmental divisions of the state; the cost of such audits,
498 investigations or other services to be paid as follows: Such part



499 shall be paid by the state from appropriations made by the
500 Legislature for the operation of the State Department of Audit as
501 may exceed the sum of Thirty-five Dollars (\$35.00) per man-hour
502 for the services of each staff person engaged in performing the
503 audit or other service plus the actual cost of any independent
504 specialist firm contracted by the State Auditor to assist in the
505 performance of the audit, which sum shall be paid by the county,
506 district, department, institution or other agency audited out of
507 its general fund or any other available funds from which such
508 payment is not prohibited by law. Costs paid for independent
509 specialists or firms contracted by the State Auditor shall be paid
510 by the audited entity through the State Auditor to the specialist
511 or firm conducting the postaudit.

512 Each school district in the state shall have its financial
513 records audited annually, at the end of each fiscal year, either
514 by the State Auditor or by a certified public accountant approved
515 by the State Auditor. Beginning with the audits of fiscal year
516 2010 activity, no certified public accountant shall be selected to
517 perform the annual audit of a school district who has audited that
518 district for three (3) or more consecutive years previously.
519 Certified public accountants shall be selected in a manner
520 determined by the State Auditor. The school district shall have
521 the responsibility to pay for the audit, including the review by
522 the State Auditor of audits performed by certified public
523 accountants;



524 (f) To postaudit and, when deemed necessary, preaudit
525 and investigate the financial affairs of the levee boards;
526 agencies created by the Legislature or by executive order of the
527 Governor; profit or nonprofit business entities administering
528 programs financed by funds flowing through the State Treasury or
529 through any of the agencies of the state, or its subdivisions; and
530 all other public bodies supported by funds derived in part or
531 wholly from public funds, except municipalities which annually
532 submit an audit prepared by a qualified certified public
533 accountant using methods and procedures prescribed by the
534 department;

535 (g) To make written demand, when necessary, for the
536 recovery of any amounts representing public funds improperly
537 withheld, misappropriated and/or otherwise illegally expended by
538 an officer, employee or administrative body of any state, county
539 or other public office, and/or for the recovery of the value of
540 any public property disposed of in an unlawful manner by a public
541 officer, employee or administrative body, such demands to be made
542 (i) upon the person or persons liable for such amounts and upon
543 the surety on official bond thereof, and/or (ii) upon any
544 individual, partnership, corporation or association to whom the
545 illegal expenditure was made or with whom the unlawful disposition
546 of public property was made, if such individual, partnership,
547 corporation or association knew or had reason to know through the
548 exercising of reasonable diligence that the expenditure was



549 illegal or the disposition unlawful. Such demand shall be
550 premised on competent evidence, which shall include at least one
551 (1) of the following: (i) sworn statements, (ii) written
552 documentation, (iii) physical evidence, or (iv) reports and
553 findings of government or other law enforcement agencies. Other
554 provisions notwithstanding, a demand letter issued pursuant to
555 this paragraph shall remain confidential by the State Auditor
556 until the individual against whom the demand letter is being filed
557 has been served with a copy of such demand letter. If, however,
558 such individual cannot be notified within fifteen (15) days using
559 reasonable means and due diligence, such notification shall be
560 made to the individual's bonding company, if he or she is bonded.
561 Each such demand shall be paid into the proper treasury of the
562 state, county or other public body through the office of the
563 department in the amount demanded within thirty (30) days from the
564 date thereof, together with interest thereon in the sum of one
565 percent (1%) per month from the date such amount or amounts were
566 improperly withheld, misappropriated and/or otherwise illegally
567 expended. In the event, however, such person or persons or such
568 surety shall refuse, neglect or otherwise fail to pay the amount
569 demanded and the interest due thereon within the allotted thirty
570 (30) days, the State Auditor shall have the authority and it shall
571 be his duty to institute suit, and the Attorney General shall
572 prosecute the same in any court of the state to the end that there
573 shall be recovered the total of such amounts from the person or



persons and surety on official bond named therein; and the amounts so recovered shall be paid into the proper treasury of the state, county or other public body through the State Auditor. In any case where written demand is issued to a surety on the official bond of such person or persons and the surety refuses, neglects or otherwise fails within one hundred twenty (120) days to either pay the amount demanded and the interest due thereon or to give the State Auditor a written response with specific reasons for nonpayment, then the surety shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount of twelve percent (12%) of the bond, not to exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), to be deposited into the State General Fund;

(h) To investigate any alleged or suspected violation of the laws of the state by any officer or employee of the state, county or other public office in the purchase, sale or the use of any supplies, services, equipment or other property belonging thereto; and in such investigation to do any and all things necessary to procure evidence sufficient either to prove or disprove the existence of such alleged or suspected violations. The Division of Investigation of the State Department of Audit may investigate, for the purpose of prosecution, any suspected criminal violation of the provisions of this chapter. For the purpose of administration and enforcement of this chapter, the enforcement employees of the Division of Investigation of the State Department of Audit have the powers of a law enforcement



599 officer of this state, and shall be empowered to make arrests and
600 to serve and execute search warrants and other valid legal process
601 anywhere within the State of Mississippi in compliance with
602 Section 1 of this act. All enforcement employees of the Division
603 of Investigation of the State Department of Audit hired on or
604 after July 1, 1993, shall be required to complete the Law
605 Enforcement Officers Training Program and shall meet the standards
606 of the program;

607 (i) To issue subpoenas, with the approval of, and
608 returnable to, a judge of a chancery or circuit court, in termtime
609 or in vacation, to examine the records, documents or other
610 evidence of persons, firms, corporations or any other entities
611 insofar as such records, documents or other evidence relate to
612 dealings with any state, county or other public entity. The
613 circuit or chancery judge must serve the county in which the
614 records, documents or other evidence is located; or where all or
615 part of the transaction or transactions occurred which are the
616 subject of the subpoena;

617 (j) In any instances in which the State Auditor is or
618 shall be authorized or required to examine or audit, whether
619 preaudit or postaudit, any books, ledgers, accounts or other
620 records of the affairs of any public hospital owned or owned and
621 operated by one or more political subdivisions or parts thereof or
622 any combination thereof, or any school district, including
623 activity funds thereof, it shall be sufficient compliance



therewith, in the discretion of the State Auditor, that such examination or audit be made from the report of any audit or other examination certified by a certified public accountant and prepared by or under the supervision of such certified public accountant. Such audits shall be made in accordance with generally accepted standards of auditing, with the use of an audit program prepared by the State Auditor, and final reports of such audits shall conform to the format prescribed by the State Auditor. All files, working papers, notes, correspondence and all other data compiled during the course of the audit shall be available, without cost, to the State Auditor for examination and abstracting during the normal business hours of any business day. The expense of such certified reports shall be borne by the respective hospital, or any available school district funds, subject to examination or audit. The State Auditor shall not be bound by such certified reports and may, in his or their discretion, conduct such examination or audit from the books, ledgers, accounts or other records involved as may be appropriate and authorized by law;

(k) The State Auditor shall have the authority to contract with qualified public accounting firms to perform selected audits required in paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (j) of this section, if funds are made available for such contracts by the Legislature, or if funds are available from the governmental entity covered by paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (j). Such audits



shall be made in accordance with generally accepted standards of auditing. All files, working papers, notes, correspondence and all other data compiled during the course of the audit shall be available, without cost, to the State Auditor for examination and abstracting during the normal business hours of any business day;

(l) The State Auditor shall have the authority to establish training courses and programs for the personnel of the various state and local governmental entities under the jurisdiction of the Office of the State Auditor. The training courses and programs shall include, but not be limited to, topics on internal control of funds, property and equipment control and inventory, governmental accounting and financial reporting, and internal auditing. The State Auditor is authorized to charge a fee from the participants of these courses and programs, which fee shall be deposited into the Department of Audit Special Fund. State and local governmental entities are authorized to pay such fee and any travel expenses out of their general funds or any other available funds from which such payment is not prohibited by law;

(m) Upon written request by the Governor or any member of the State Legislature, the State Auditor may audit any state funds and/or state and federal funds received by any nonprofit corporation incorporated under the laws of this state;

(n) To conduct performance audits of personal or professional service contracts by state agencies on a random



674 sampling basis, or upon request of the State Personal Service
675 Contract Review Board under Section 25-9-120(3);

676 (o) At the discretion of the State Auditor, the Auditor
677 may conduct risk assessments, as well as performance and
678 compliance audits based on Generally Accepted Government Auditing
679 Standards (GAGAS) of any state-funded economic development program
680 authorized under Title 57, Mississippi Code of 1972. After risk
681 assessments or program audits, the State Auditor may conduct
682 audits of those projects deemed high-risk, specifically as they
683 identify any potential wrongdoing or noncompliance based on
684 objectives of the economic development program. The Auditor is
685 granted authority to gather, audit and review data and information
686 from the Mississippi Development Authority or any of its agents,
687 the Department of Revenue, and when necessary under this
688 paragraph, the recipient business or businesses or any other
689 private, public or nonprofit entity with information relevant to
690 the audit project. The maximum amount the State Auditor may bill
691 the oversight agency under this paragraph in any fiscal year is
692 One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), based on reasonable
693 and necessary expenses;

694 (p) To review and approve any independent auditor
695 selected by the Mississippi Lottery Corporation in accordance with
696 Section 27-115-89, to conduct an annual audit of the corporation;
697 and



698 (q) To conduct audits or investigations of the
699 Mississippi Lottery Corporation if, in the opinion of the State
700 Auditor, conditions justify such audits or investigations.

701 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-9-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
702 amended as follows:

703 9-9-23. The county judge shall have power to issue writs,
704 and to try matters, of habeas corpus on application to him or her
705 therefor, or when made returnable before him or her by a superior
706 judge. He shall also have the power to order the issuance of
707 writs of certiorari, supersedeas, attachments, and other remedial
708 writs in all cases pending in, or within the jurisdiction of, his
709 or her court. He or she shall have the authority to issue search
710 warrants in his or her county returnable to his or her own court
711 or to any court of a justice of the peace within his or her county
712 in the same manner as is provided by law and in Section 1 of this
713 act for the issuance of search warrants by justices of the peace.
714 In all cases pending in, or within the jurisdiction of, his or her
715 court, he or she shall have, in term time, and in vacation, the
716 power to order, do or determine to the same extent and in the same
717 manner as a justice of the peace or a circuit judge or a
718 chancellor could do in term time or in vacation in such cases.
719 But he or she shall not have original power to issue writs of
720 injunction, or other remedial writs in equity or in law except in
721 those cases hereinabove specified as being within his or her
722 jurisdiction: Provided, however, that when any judge or



chancellor authorized to issue such writs of injunction, or any other equitable or legal remedial writs hereinabove reserved, shall so direct in writing the hearing of application therefor may be by him or her referred to the county judge, in which event the said direction of the superior judge shall vest in the said county judge all authority to take such action on said application as the said superior judge could have taken under the right and the law, had the said application been at all times before the said superior judge. The jurisdiction authorized under the foregoing proviso shall cease upon the denying or granting of the application.

SECTION 9. Section 21-23-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

21-23-7. (1) The municipal judge shall hold court in a public building designated by the governing authorities of the municipality, or may hold court in an adult detention center as provided under this subsection, and may hold court every day except Sundays and legal holidays if the business of the municipality so requires; provided, however, the municipal judge may hold court outside the boundaries of the municipality but not more than within a sixty-mile radius of the municipality to handle preliminary matters and criminal matters such as initial appearances and felony preliminary hearings. The municipal judge may hold court outside the boundaries of the municipality but not more than within a one-mile radius of the municipality for any



748 purpose; however, a municipal judge may hold court outside the
749 boundaries of the municipality more than within a one-mile radius
750 of the municipality when accepting a plea of a defendant at an
751 adult detention center within the county. The municipal judge
752 shall have the jurisdiction to hear and determine, without a jury
753 and without a record of the testimony, all cases charging
754 violations of the municipal ordinances and state misdemeanor laws
755 made offenses against the municipality and to punish offenders
756 therefor as may be prescribed by law. Except as otherwise
757 provided by law, criminal proceedings shall be brought by sworn
758 complaint filed in the municipal court. Such complaint shall
759 state the essential elements of the offense charged and the
760 statute or ordinance relied upon. Such complaint shall not be
761 required to conclude with a general averment that the offense is
762 against the peace and dignity of the state or in violation of the
763 ordinances of the municipality. He may sit as a committing court
764 in all felonies committed within the municipality, and he shall
765 have the power to bind over the accused to the grand jury or to
766 appear before the proper court having jurisdiction to try the
767 same, and to set the amount of bail or refuse bail and commit the
768 accused to jail in cases not bailable. The municipal judge is a
769 conservator of the peace within his municipality. He may conduct
770 preliminary hearings in all violations of the criminal laws of
771 this state occurring within the municipality, and any person
772 arrested for a violation of law within the municipality may be



brought before him for initial appearance. The municipal court shall have jurisdiction of any case remanded to it by a circuit court grand jury. The municipal court shall have civil jurisdiction over actions filed pursuant to and as provided in Chapter 21, Title 93, * * * Mississippi Code of 1972, the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act.

(2) In the discretion of the court, where the objects of justice would be more likely met, as an alternative to imposition or payment of fine and/or incarceration, the municipal judge shall have the power to sentence convicted offenders to work on a public service project where the court has established such a program of public service by written guidelines filed with the clerk for public record. Such programs shall provide for reasonable supervision of the offender and the work shall be commensurate with the fine and/or incarceration that would have ordinarily been imposed. Such program of public service may be utilized in the implementation of the provisions of Section 99-19-20, and public service work thereunder may be supervised by persons other than the sheriff.

(3) The municipal judge may solemnize marriages, take oaths, affidavits and acknowledgments, and issue orders, subpoenas, summonses, citations, warrants for search and arrest upon a finding of probable cause in compliance with Section 1 of this act, and other such process under seal of the court to any county or municipality, in a criminal case, to be executed by the lawful



798 authority of the county or the municipality of the respondent, and
799 enforce obedience thereto. The absence of a seal shall not
800 invalidate the process.

801 (4) When a person shall be charged with an offense in
802 municipal court punishable by confinement, the municipal judge,
803 being satisfied that such person is an indigent person and is
804 unable to employ counsel, may, in the discretion of the court,
805 appoint counsel from the membership of The Mississippi Bar
806 residing in his county who shall represent him. Compensation for
807 appointed counsel in criminal cases shall be approved and allowed
808 by the municipal judge and shall be paid by the municipality. The
809 maximum compensation shall not exceed Two Hundred Dollars
810 (\$200.00) for any one (1) case. The governing authorities of a
811 municipality may, in their discretion, appoint a public
812 defender(s) who must be a licensed attorney and who shall receive
813 a salary to be fixed by the governing authorities.

814 (5) The municipal judge of any municipality is hereby
815 authorized to suspend the sentence and to suspend the execution of
816 the sentence, or any part thereof, on such terms as may be imposed
817 by the municipal judge. However, the suspension of imposition or
818 execution of a sentence hereunder may not be revoked after a
819 period of two (2) years. The municipal judge shall have the power
820 to establish and operate a probation program, dispute resolution
821 program and other practices or procedures appropriate to the
822 judiciary and designed to aid in the administration of justice.



Any such program shall be established by the court with written policies and procedures filed with the clerk of the court for public record. Subsequent to original sentencing, the municipal judge, in misdemeanor cases, is hereby authorized to suspend sentence and to suspend the execution of a sentence, or any part thereof, on such terms as may be imposed by the municipal judge, if (a) the judge or his or her predecessor was authorized to order such suspension when the sentence was originally imposed; and (b) such conviction (i) has not been appealed; or (ii) has been appealed and the appeal has been voluntarily dismissed.

(6) Upon prior notice to the municipal prosecuting attorney and upon a showing in open court of rehabilitation, good conduct for a period of two (2) years since the last conviction in any court and that the best interest of society would be served, the court may, in its discretion, order the record of conviction of a person of any or all misdemeanors in that court expunged, and upon so doing the said person thereafter legally stands as though he had never been convicted of the said misdemeanor(s) and may lawfully so respond to any query of prior convictions. This order of expunction does not apply to the confidential records of law enforcement agencies and has no effect on the driving record of a person maintained under Title 63, Mississippi Code of 1972, or any other provision of said Title 63.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (6) of this section, a person who was convicted in municipal court of a



848 misdemeanor before reaching his twenty-third birthday, excluding
849 conviction for a traffic violation, and who is a first offender,
850 may utilize the provisions of Section 99-19-71, to expunge such
851 misdemeanor conviction.

852 (8) In the discretion of the court, a plea of nolo
853 contendere may be entered to any charge in municipal court. Upon
854 the entry of a plea of nolo contendere the court shall convict the
855 defendant of the offense charged and shall proceed to sentence the
856 defendant according to law. The judgment of the court shall
857 reflect that the conviction was on a plea of nolo contendere. An
858 appeal may be made from a conviction on a plea of nolo contendere
859 as in other cases.

860 (9) Upon execution of a sworn complaint charging a
861 misdemeanor, the municipal court may, in its discretion and in
862 lieu of an arrest warrant, issue a citation requiring the
863 appearance of the defendant to answer the charge made against him.
864 On default of appearance, an arrest warrant may be issued for the
865 defendant in compliance with Section 1 of this act. The clerk of
866 the court or deputy clerk may issue such citations.

867 (10) The municipal court shall have the power to make rules
868 for the administration of the court's business, which rules, if
869 any, shall be in writing filed with the clerk of the court and
870 shall include the enactment of rules related to the court's
871 authority to issue domestic abuse protection orders pursuant to
872 Section 93-21-1 et seq.



873 (11) The municipal court shall have the power to impose
874 punishment of a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars
875 (\$1,000.00) or six (6) months imprisonment, or both, for contempt
876 of court. The municipal court may have the power to impose
877 reasonable costs of court, not in excess of the following:
878 Dismissal of any affidavit, complaint or charge
879 in municipal court.....\$ 50.00
880 Suspension of a minor's driver's license in lieu of
881 conviction.....\$ 50.00
882 Service of scire facias or return "not found".....\$ 20.00
883 Causing search warrant to issue or causing
884 prosecution without reasonable cause or refusing to
885 cooperate after initiating action.....\$ 100.00
886 Certified copy of the court record.....\$ 5.00
887 Service of arrest warrant for failure to answer
888 citation or traffic summons.....\$ 25.00
889 Jail cost per day - actual jail cost paid by the municipality
890 but not to exceed.....\$ 35.00
891 Service of court documents related to the filing
892 of a petition or issuance of a protection from domestic
893 abuse order under Chapter 21, Title 93, * * * Mississippi Code of
894 1972\$ 25.00
895 Any other item of court cost.....\$ 50.00
896 No filing fee or such cost shall be imposed for the bringing
897 of an action in municipal court.



898 (12) A municipal court judge shall not dismiss a criminal
899 case but may transfer the case to the justice court of the county
900 if the municipal court judge is prohibited from presiding over the
901 case by the Canons of Judicial Conduct and provided that venue and
902 jurisdiction are proper in the justice court. Upon transfer of
903 any such case, the municipal court judge shall give the municipal
904 court clerk a written order to transmit the affidavit or complaint
905 and all other records and evidence in the court's possession to
906 the justice court by certified mail or to instruct the arresting
907 officer to deliver such documents and records to the justice
908 court. There shall be no court costs charged for the transfer of
909 the case to the justice court.

910 (13) A municipal court judge shall expunge the record of any
911 case in which an arrest was made, the person arrested was released
912 and the case was dismissed or the charges were dropped, there was
913 no disposition of such case or the person was found not guilty at
914 trial.

915 (14) For violations of municipal ordinances related to real
916 property, the municipal judge shall have the power to order a
917 defendant to remedy violations within a reasonable time period as
918 set by the judge, and at the discretion of the judge, the judge
919 may simultaneously authorize the municipality, at its request, the
920 option to remedy the violation itself, through the use of its own
921 employees or its contractors, without further notice should the
922 defendant fail to fully do so within the time period set by the



923 judge. Subsequent to the municipality remedying the violation,
924 the municipality may petition the court to assess documented
925 cleanup costs to the defendant, and, if, following a hearing on
926 such petition, the judge determines (a) the violations were not
927 remedied by the defendant within the time required by the court,
928 (b) that the municipality remedied the violation itself after such
929 time period expired and (c) that the costs incurred by the
930 municipality were reasonable, the court may assess the costs to
931 the defendant as a judgement, which may be enrolled in the office
932 of the circuit clerk.

933 **SECTION 10.** Section 27-69-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
934 amended as follows:

935 27-69-59. When the commissioner has good reason to believe
936 that tobacco is being kept, sold, offered for sale, or given away
937 in violation of this chapter, or regulations issued under
938 authority hereof, he may make affidavit of such fact, describing
939 the place or thing to be searched, before any justice of the
940 peace, mayor of any city, town or village, or county or circuit
941 judge of any county in this state, and such justice of the peace,
942 mayor or county or circuit judge shall issue a search warrant
943 directed to the sheriff or any constable or any police officer in
944 any city, town or village, commanding him to proceed in the day
945 time, or in the night time, to enter by breaking, if necessary,
946 and to diligently search any building, room in a building,
947 outhouses, place, wagon, cart, buggy, motorcycle, motor truck,



948 automobile, water or air craft, or other vehicle as may be
949 designated in the affidavit and search warrant, and to seize such
950 tobacco so possessed and to hold the same until disposed of by
951 law, and to arrest the person or persons in possession or control
952 of the same. Any search or arrest authorized by this section
953 shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

954 Such writ shall be returnable instanter, or on a day to be
955 stated, and a copy shall be served on the owner or person in
956 possession, if such person be present or readily found.

957 If upon hearing, or the return of such search warrant, it
958 shall appear that any tobacco unlawfully possessed were seized,
959 the same shall be declared forfeited to this state, and shall be
960 sold as provided in Section 27-69-55 of this chapter.

961 **SECTION 11.** Section 41-29-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
962 amended as follows:

963 41-29-153. (a) The following are subject to forfeiture:

964 (1) All controlled substances which have been
965 manufactured, distributed, dispensed or acquired in violation of
966 this article or in violation of Article 5 of this chapter or
967 Chapter 137 of this title;

968 (2) All raw materials, products and equipment of any
969 kind which are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing,
970 compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting any
971 controlled substance in violation of this article or in violation
972 of Article 5 of this chapter or Chapter 137 of this title;



973 (3) All property which is used, or intended for use, as
974 a container for property described in paragraph (1) or (2) of this
975 subsection;

976 (4) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles or
977 vessels, which are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in
978 any manner to facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt,
979 possession or concealment of property described in paragraph (1)
980 or (2) of this subsection, however:

981 A. No conveyance used by any person as a common
982 carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is
983 subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that
984 the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a
985 consenting party or privy to a violation of this article;

986 B. No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under
987 this section by reason of any act or omission proved by the owner
988 thereof to have been committed or omitted without his knowledge or
989 consent; if the confiscating authority has reason to believe that
990 the conveyance is a leased or rented conveyance, then the
991 confiscating authority shall notify the owner of the conveyance
992 within five (5) days of the confiscation;

993 C. A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a
994 bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the
995 secured party if he neither had knowledge of nor consented to the
996 act or omission;



997 D. A conveyance is not subject to forfeiture for a
998 violation of Section 41-29-139(c)(2)(A) 1, 2 or (B)1 or (C)1, 2,
999 3;

1000 (5) All money, deadly weapons, books, records, and
1001 research products and materials, including formulas, microfilm,
1002 tapes and data which are used, or intended for use, in violation
1003 of this article or in violation of Article 5 of this chapter or
1004 Chapter 137 of this title;

1005 (6) All drug paraphernalia as defined in Section
1006 41-29-105(v); and

1007 (7) Everything of value, including real estate,
1008 furnished, or intended to be furnished, in exchange for a
1009 controlled substance in violation of this article, all proceeds
1010 traceable to such an exchange, and all monies, negotiable
1011 instruments, businesses or business investments, securities, and
1012 other things of value used, or intended to be used, to facilitate
1013 any violation of this article. All monies, coin and currency
1014 found in close proximity to forfeitable controlled substances, to
1015 forfeitable drug manufacturing or distributing paraphernalia, or
1016 to forfeitable records of the importation, manufacture or
1017 distribution of controlled substances are presumed to be
1018 forfeitable under this paragraph; the burden of proof is upon
1019 claimants of the property to rebut this presumption.

1020 A. No property shall be forfeited under the
1021 provisions of subsection (a)(7) of this section, to the extent of



1022 the interest of an owner, by reason of any act or omission
1023 established by him to have been committed or omitted without his
1024 knowledge or consent.

1025 B. Neither personal property encumbered by a bona
1026 fide security interest nor real estate encumbered by a bona fide
1027 mortgage, deed of trust, lien or encumbrance shall be forfeited
1028 under the provisions of subsection (a)(7) of this section, to the
1029 extent of the interest of the secured party or the interest of the
1030 mortgagee, holder of a deed of trust, lien or encumbrance by
1031 reason of any act or omission established by him to have been
1032 committed or omitted without his knowledge or consent.

1033 (b) Property subject to forfeiture may be seized by the
1034 bureau, local law enforcement officers, enforcement officers of
1035 the Mississippi Department of Transportation, highway patrolmen,
1036 the board, the State Board of Pharmacy, or law enforcement
1037 officers of the Mississippi Department of Revenue or Mississippi
1038 Department of Health acting with their duties in accordance with
1039 the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act, upon process issued by any
1040 appropriate court having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure
1041 without process may be made if:

1042 (1) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
1043 under a search warrant or an inspection under an administrative
1044 inspection warrant;



(2) The property subject to seizure has been the subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this article;

(3) The bureau, the board, local law enforcement officers, enforcement officers of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, or highway patrolmen, the State Board of Pharmacy, or law enforcement officers of the Mississippi Department of Revenue or Mississippi Department of Health acting with their duties in accordance with the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act, have probable cause to believe that the property is directly or indirectly dangerous to health or safety;

(4) The bureau, local law enforcement officers, enforcement officers of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, highway patrolmen, the board, the State Board of Pharmacy, or law enforcement officers of the Mississippi Department of Revenue or Mississippi Department of Health acting with their duties in accordance with the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act, have probable cause to believe that the property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this article; or

(5) The seizing law enforcement agency obtained a seizure warrant as described in subsection (f) of this section and in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(c) Controlled substances listed in Schedule I of Section 41-29-113 that are possessed, transferred, sold, or offered for sale in violation of this article are contraband and shall be



seized and summarily forfeited to the state. Controlled substances listed in the said Schedule I, which are seized or come into the possession of the state, the owners of which are unknown, are contraband and shall be summarily forfeited to the state.

(d) Species of plants from which controlled substances in Schedules I and II of Sections 41-29-113 and 41-29-115 may be derived which have been planted or cultivated in violation of this article, or of which the owners or cultivators are unknown, or which are wild growths, may be seized and summarily forfeited to the state.

(e) The failure, upon demand by the bureau and/or local law enforcement officers, or their authorized agents, or highway patrolmen designated by the bureau, the board, the State Board of Pharmacy, or law enforcement officers of the Mississippi Department of Revenue or Mississippi Department of Health acting with their duties in accordance with the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act, of the person in occupancy or in control of land or premises upon which the species of plants are growing or being stored, to produce an appropriate registration, or proof that he is the holder thereof, constitutes authority for the seizure and forfeiture of the plants.

(f) (1) When any property is seized under the Uniform Controlled Substances Law, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, by a law enforcement agency with the intent to be forfeited, the law enforcement agency that seized



1095 the property shall obtain a seizure warrant from the county or
1096 circuit court having jurisdiction of such property within
1097 seventy-two (72) hours of any seizure, excluding weekends and
1098 holidays. Any law enforcement agency that fails to obtain a
1099 seizure warrant within seventy-two (72) hours as required by this
1100 section shall notify the person from whom the property was seized
1101 that it will not be forfeited and shall provide written
1102 instructions advising the person how to retrieve the seized
1103 property.

1104 (2) A circuit or county judge having jurisdiction of
1105 any property other than a controlled substance, raw material or
1106 paraphernalia, may issue a seizure warrant upon proper oath or
1107 affirmation from a law enforcement agency. The law enforcement
1108 agency that is seeking a seizure warrant shall provide the
1109 following information to the judge:

1110 A. Probable cause to believe that the property was
1111 used or intended to be used in violation of this article;

1112 B. The name of the person from whom the property
1113 was seized; and

1114 C. A detailed description of the property which is
1115 seized, including the value of the property.

1116 (3) This subsection does not apply to seizures
1117 performed pursuant to Section 41-29-157 when property is
1118 specifically set forth in a search and seizure warrant.



1119 **SECTION 12.** Section 41-29-159, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1120 amended as follows:

1121 41-29-159. (a) Any officer or employee of the Mississippi
1122 Bureau of Narcotics, investigative unit of the State Board of
1123 Pharmacy, investigative unit of the State Board of Medical
1124 Licensure, investigative unit of the State Board of Dental
1125 Examiners, investigative unit of the Mississippi Board of Nursing,
1126 investigative unit of the State Board of Optometry, any duly sworn
1127 peace officer of the State of Mississippi, any enforcement officer
1128 of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, or any highway
1129 patrolman, may, while engaged in the performance of his statutory
1130 duties:

1131 (1) Carry firearms;

1132 (2) Execute and serve search warrants * * * and arrest
1133 warrants in compliance with Section 1 of this act, subpoenas, and
1134 summonses issued under the authority of this state;

1135 (3) Make arrests without warrant for any offense under
1136 this article committed in his presence, or if he has probable
1137 cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or
1138 is committing a crime; and

1139 (4) Make seizures of property pursuant to this article.

1140 (b) As divided among the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics,
1141 the State Board of Pharmacy, the State Board of Medical Licensure,
1142 the State Board of Dental Examiners, the Mississippi Board of
1143 Nursing and the State Board of Optometry, the primary



1144 responsibility of the illicit street traffic or other illicit
1145 traffic of drugs is delegated to agents of the Mississippi Bureau
1146 of Narcotics. The State Board of Pharmacy is delegated the
1147 responsibility of regulating and checking the legitimate drug
1148 traffic among pharmacists, pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes,
1149 drug manufacturers, and any other related professions and
1150 facilities with the exception of the medical, dental, nursing,
1151 optometric and veterinary professions. The State Board of Medical
1152 Licensure is responsible for regulating and checking the
1153 legitimate drug traffic among physicians, podiatrists and
1154 veterinarians. The Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners is
1155 responsible for regulating and checking the legitimate drug
1156 traffic among dentists and dental hygienists. The Mississippi
1157 Board of Nursing is responsible for regulating and checking the
1158 legitimate drug traffic among nurses. The State Board of
1159 Optometry is responsible for regulating and checking the
1160 legitimate drug traffic among optometrists.

1161 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to
1162 limit or preclude the detection or arrest of persons in violation
1163 of Section 41-29-139 by any local law enforcement officer,
1164 sheriff, deputy sheriff or peace officer.

1165 (d) Agents of the bureau are authorized to investigate the
1166 circumstances of deaths which are caused by drug overdose or which
1167 are believed to be caused by drug overdose, and health care
1168 providers, coroners and law enforcement officers shall notify the



1169 bureau of any death caused by a drug overdose within twenty-four
1170 (24) hours.

1171 (e) Any person who shall impersonate in any way the director
1172 or any agent, or who shall in any manner hold himself out as
1173 being, or represent himself as being, an officer or agent of the
1174 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,
1175 and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not
1176 less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred
1177 Dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment for not more than one (1)
1178 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1179 **SECTION 13.** Section 41-29-161, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1180 amended as follows:

1181 41-29-161. Any officer or employee of the Mississippi Bureau
1182 of Drug Enforcement who is authorized to investigate, carry
1183 firearms, serve search warrants in compliance with Section 1 of
1184 this act, and do all things as set forth in this article shall
1185 prior to entering upon the discharge of his duties enter into a
1186 good and sufficient surety bond in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars
1187 (\$10,000.00) with a surety company authorized and doing business
1188 within the State of Mississippi. The said bond herein is
1189 conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of his
1190 office. All premiums shall be paid as are other expenses of the
1191 bureau.

1192 **SECTION 14.** Section 43-13-221, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1193 amended as follows:



1194 43-13-221. The Attorney General, acting through the Director
1195 of the Fraud Control Unit, may, in any case involving alleged
1196 violations of this article, conduct an investigation or
1197 prosecution. In conducting such actions, the Attorney General,
1198 acting through the director, shall have all the powers of a
1199 district attorney, including the powers to issue or cause to be
1200 issued subpoenas or other process.

1201 Persons employed by the Attorney General as investigators in
1202 the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit shall serve as law enforcement
1203 officers as defined in Section 45-6-3, and they shall be empowered
1204 to make arrests and to serve and execute search warrants in
1205 compliance with Section 1 of this act and other valid legal
1206 process anywhere within the State of Mississippi.

1207 **SECTION 15.** Section 43-13-229, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1208 amended as follows:

1209 43-13-229. (1) During any investigation under this article,
1210 the Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Fraud
1211 Control Unit, shall have the right to audit and to inspect the
1212 records of any health care provider or vendor of Medicaid
1213 benefits.

1214 (2) Reimbursement under the Medicaid program shall not be
1215 available for services furnished by a provider or vendor who is
1216 otherwise eligible for Medicaid benefits during any period when
1217 such provider or vendor has refused to provide the Attorney
1218 General and the Director of the Fraud Control Unit such



1219 information as the unit may request in order to complete its
1220 investigation.

1221 (3) Suspension of Medicaid reimbursement payments shall
1222 continue during all periods during which any part of any requested
1223 records are not produced, notwithstanding any administrative,
1224 legal or other proceedings which may be brought or maintained by
1225 such provider or vendor or by any other party to forestall, modify
1226 or prevent the request for records.

1227 (4) As used in this section, "requested records" means those
1228 records required by the unit for investigative or prosecutorial
1229 purposes, and requested by subpoena, subpoena duces tecum, grand
1230 jury subpoena, administrative demand, search warrant executed in
1231 compliance with Section 1 of this act, or other process, demand or
1232 written request.

1233 **SECTION 16.** Section 45-11-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1234 amended as follows:

1235 45-11-1. (1) The Commissioner of Insurance is by virtue of
1236 his office the State Fire Marshal and shall appoint the State
1237 Chief Deputy Fire Marshal who, along with his employees, shall be
1238 designated as a division of the Insurance Department. The State
1239 Chief Deputy Fire Marshal shall be a person qualified by
1240 experience and training and thoroughly knowledgeable in the areas
1241 of arson investigation and prevention, fire prevention, fire
1242 fighting and the training of firemen. The State Chief Deputy Fire



1243 Marshal shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Commissioner
1244 of Insurance.

1245 (2) The State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal shall employ such
1246 deputy state fire marshals as are necessary and in accordance with
1247 availability of funds. Deputy fire marshals shall be deployed
1248 across the state in order to provide effective service to fire
1249 scenes.

1250 (3) It shall be the duty of the State Chief Deputy Fire
1251 Marshal to investigate, by himself or his deputy, the origin of
1252 every fire occurring within the state to which his attention is
1253 called by the chief of the fire department or other law
1254 enforcement authority of any county or municipality. It shall
1255 also be his duty to investigate any case requested by any party in
1256 interest, whenever, in his judgment, there be sufficient evidence
1257 or circumstances indicating that such fire may be of incendiary
1258 origin. All county and municipal law enforcement authorities
1259 shall cooperate with the State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal in such
1260 investigation. This section shall not be construed to impair the
1261 duty and power of county and municipal law enforcement authorities
1262 to investigate any fire occurring within his or their
1263 jurisdiction.

1264 (4) (a) The State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal and deputy
1265 state fire marshals shall have the following powers:

1266 (i) To arrest without warrant subject to the
1267 provisions of Section 1 of this act any person or persons



1268 committing or attempting to commit any misdemeanor or felony
1269 within their presence or view but only such violations of law or
1270 violations of regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter or
1271 Chapter 49, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972;

1272 (ii) To pursue and so arrest any person committing
1273 an offense as described under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph
1274 to and at any place in the State of Mississippi where he may go or
1275 be;

1276 (iii) To execute all warrants and search warrants
1277 in compliance with Section 1 of this act related to, and
1278 investigate any violation of the laws and regulations related to
1279 this chapter and Chapter 49, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972,
1280 and prevent, arrest and apprehend such violators; and

1281 (iv) To aid and assist any peace officer of this
1282 state or any other state if requested, or in manhunts or natural
1283 disasters within the state, and upon the consent of the State Fire
1284 Marshal, within the jurisdiction of the called event.

1285 (b) Nothing herein shall be construed as granting the
1286 State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal or deputy state fire marshals
1287 general police powers.

1288 (c) All deputy state fire marshals hired on or after
1289 July 1, 2013, shall be required to complete or have completed the
1290 Law Enforcement Officers Training Program and shall meet the
1291 standards of the program.



1292 (5) The State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal shall maintain in
1293 his office a record of all fires investigated by him or his
1294 deputy, including evidence obtained as to the origin of each such
1295 fire.

1296 (6) Such record shall at all times be subject to inspection
1297 by any party of interest in the fire loss; provided, however, that
1298 no record or report of an investigation shall be subject to
1299 inspection pending such investigation or while same is in
1300 progress, and if a report of an investigation contains any
1301 evidence of arson or other felony, same shall not be subject to
1302 inspection by any person other than the district attorney and
1303 county attorney of the county in which such evidence indicates
1304 that arson or other felony may have been committed, except upon
1305 the written approval of such district attorney or the order of a
1306 court of competent jurisdiction. Provided that in cases where a
1307 person has been arrested for the crimes of arson, attempted arson,
1308 or any other felony, the defendant or his attorney shall have
1309 access to these records. Any physical evidence of arson or other
1310 felony shall be delivered to the custody of the sheriff of the
1311 county wherein such fire occurred.

1312 (7) The State Chief Deputy Fire Marshal may appoint, with
1313 the consent of the Commissioner of Insurance, a State Chief
1314 Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal, who shall have power, during the
1315 chief deputy's absence or inability to act due to any cause, to
1316 perform any and all of the duties of the chief deputy. The chief



1317 assistant deputy shall serve at the will and pleasure of the
1318 Commissioner of Insurance.

1319 **SECTION 17.** Section 47-5-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1320 amended as follows:

1321 47-5-28. The commissioner shall have the following powers
1322 and duties:

1323 (a) To implement and administer laws and policy
1324 relating to corrections and coordinate the efforts of the
1325 department with those of the federal government and other state
1326 departments and agencies, county governments, municipal
1327 governments, and private agencies concerned with providing
1328 offender services;

1329 (b) To establish standards, in cooperation with other
1330 state agencies having responsibility as provided by law, provide
1331 technical assistance, and exercise the requisite supervision as it
1332 relates to correctional programs over all state-supported adult
1333 correctional facilities and community-based programs;

1334 (c) To promulgate and publish such rules, regulations
1335 and policies of the department as are needed for the efficient
1336 government and maintenance of all facilities and programs in
1337 accord insofar as possible with currently accepted standards of
1338 adult offender care and treatment;

1339 (d) To provide the Parole Board with suitable and
1340 sufficient office space and support resources and staff necessary



1341 to conduct Parole Board business under the guidance of the
1342 Chairman of the Parole Board;

1343 (e) To contract for transitional reentry center beds
1344 that will be used as noncorrections housing for offenders released
1345 from the department on parole, probation or post-release
1346 supervision but do not have appropriate housing available upon
1347 release. At least one hundred (100) but no more than eight
1348 hundred (800) transitional reentry center beds contracted by the
1349 department and chosen by the Parole Board shall be available for
1350 the Parole Board to place parolees without appropriate housing;

1351 (f) To designate deputy commissioners while performing
1352 their officially assigned duties relating to the custody, control,
1353 transportation, recapture or arrest of any offender within the
1354 jurisdiction of the department or any offender of any jail,
1355 penitentiary, public workhouse or overnight lockup of the state or
1356 any political subdivision thereof not within the jurisdiction of
1357 the department, to the status of peace officers anywhere in the
1358 state in any matter relating to the custody, control,
1359 transportation or recapture of such offender, and shall have the
1360 status of law enforcement officers and peace officers as
1361 contemplated by Sections 45-6-3, 97-3-7 and 97-3-19.

1362 For the purpose of administration and enforcement of this
1363 chapter, deputy commissioners of the Mississippi Department of
1364 Corrections, who are certified by the Mississippi Board on Law
1365 Enforcement Officer Standards and Training, have the powers of a



1366 law enforcement officer of this state. Such powers shall include
1367 to make arrests and to serve and execute search warrants and other
1368 valid legal process anywhere within the State of Mississippi in
1369 compliance with Section 1 of this act, while performing their
1370 officially assigned duties relating to the custody, control,
1371 transportation, recapture or arrest of any offender within the
1372 jurisdiction of the department or any offender of any jail,
1373 penitentiary, public workhouse or overnight lockup of the state or
1374 any political subdivision thereof not within the jurisdiction of
1375 the department in any matter relating to the custody, control,
1376 transportation or recapture of such offender;

1377 (g) To make an annual report to the Governor and the
1378 Legislature reflecting the activities of the department and make
1379 recommendations for improvement of the services to be performed by
1380 the department;

1381 (h) To cooperate fully with periodic independent
1382 internal investigations of the department and to file the report
1383 with the Governor and the Legislature;

1384 (i) To contract with licensed special care facilities
1385 for paroled inmates to provide authorized medical services and
1386 support services for medically frail inmates who have been paroled
1387 and who have voluntarily submitted to the Department of Corrections
1388 an address to one of the licensed care facilities to receive such
1389 services; and



1390 (j) To perform such other duties necessary to
1391 effectively and efficiently carry out the purposes of the
1392 department as may be directed by the Governor.

1393 **SECTION 18.** Section 49-1-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1394 amended as follows:

1395 49-1-43. (1) The director shall have general supervision
1396 and control of all conservation officers, and shall enforce all
1397 the laws and regulations of the state relating to wild animals,
1398 birds and fish, and shall exercise all necessary powers incident
1399 thereto not specifically conferred on the department.

1400 (2) The director, with the approval of the commission, shall
1401 make to the Governor and the Legislature a report covering the
1402 operation of the department for the preceding fiscal year.

1403 (3) It shall be the duty of all conservation officers to
1404 enforce, and to obey and carry out all instructions and directions
1405 of the department with respect to the enforcement of the laws and
1406 regulations relating to wild animals, birds and fish.

1407 (4) The director and each conservation officer shall have
1408 power, and it shall be the duty of the director and of each
1409 conservation officer:

1410 (a) To execute all warrants and search warrants for a
1411 violation of the laws and regulations relating to wild animals,
1412 birds and fish and to serve subpoenas issued for the examination
1413 and investigation or trial of offenses against any of the laws or
1414 regulations;



1415 (b) To search where the conservation officer has cause
1416 to believe and does believe that animals, birds or fish, or any
1417 parts thereof, or the nest or eggs of birds, or spawn or eggs of
1418 fish are possessed in violation of law or regulation and in such
1419 case to examine, without warrant, the contents of any boat, car,
1420 automobile or other vehicle, box, locker, basket, creel, crate,
1421 game bag or other package, to ascertain whether any law or
1422 regulation for the protection of animals, birds or fish have been
1423 or are being violated, and to use such force as may be necessary
1424 for the purpose of such examination and inspection;

1425 (c) With a search warrant to search and examine the
1426 contents of any dwelling house, room, building or premises of any
1427 person suspected of violating any law or regulation, to seize all
1428 animals, birds or fish, or parts thereof, or nests or eggs of
1429 birds taken in violation of law or regulation, or showing evidence
1430 of illegal taking and to seize and confiscate all devices
1431 illegally used in taking animals, birds or fish;

1432 (d) To arrest, without warrant, any person committing
1433 or attempting to commit a misdemeanor, felony or a breach of the
1434 peace within his presence or view and to pursue and so arrest any
1435 person committing an offense in any place in the state where the
1436 person may go or be; to aid and assist any peace officer of this
1437 state or any other state if requested, in manhunts or natural
1438 disasters within the state; and



1439 (e) To exercise other powers of peace officers in the
1440 enforcement of game laws or regulations or of a judgment for the
1441 violation thereof, as are not herein specifically provided.

1442 (5) In all cases of arrest without warrant, the person
1443 making such arrest must inform the accused of the object and cause
1444 of the arrest in compliance with Section 1 of this act, except
1445 when he is in the actual commission of the offense or is arrested
1446 on pursuit.

1447 (6) No conservation officer shall compromise or settle out
1448 of court any violation of this chapter, or any law or regulation
1449 for the protection of wild animals, birds or fish.

1450 (7) Nothing in this section shall be construed as granting
1451 conservation officers general police powers.

1452 (8) Citations issued by a conservation officer for any
1453 violation of the laws for the protection of wild animals, birds
1454 and fish, the trespass laws, the litter laws, and the boating laws
1455 shall be issued on a uniform citation form consisting of an
1456 original and at least two (2) copies. Such citation shall show,
1457 among other necessary information, the name of the issuing
1458 officer, the name of the court in which the cause is to be heard,
1459 and the date and time the person charged with a violation is to
1460 appear to answer the charge. The uniform citation form shall make
1461 a provision on it for information that will constitute a complaint
1462 charging the offense for which the citation was issued and, when



1463 duly sworn to and filed with a court of competent jurisdiction,
1464 prosecution may proceed under that complaint.

1465 **SECTION 19.** Section 49-15-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1466 amended as follows:

1467 49-15-21. (1) The executive director shall appoint the
1468 necessary enforcement officers for the administration of this
1469 chapter. The salary of all enforcement officers employed shall be
1470 as determined by the State Personnel Board. However, the members
1471 of the Enforcement Officers' Reserve Unit created in subsection
1472 (4) shall serve without pay, and shall not be employees of the
1473 State of Mississippi for purposes of the State Personnel System,
1474 the Workers' Compensation Law, the Public Employees' Retirement
1475 System or the State Employees Life and Health Insurance Plan.

1476 (2) All enforcement officers shall be experienced and
1477 qualified persons thoroughly familiar with the seafood business
1478 and shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and be a high
1479 school graduate or its equivalent. The enforcement officers shall
1480 diligently enforce all laws and regulations for the protection,
1481 propagation, preservation or conservation of all saltwater aquatic
1482 life of the State of Mississippi, and they are hereby constituted
1483 peace officers of the State of Mississippi, with full police power
1484 and jurisdiction to enforce all laws of the State of Mississippi,
1485 inclusive of all federal laws within the jurisdiction of the State
1486 of Mississippi and waters and resources under management of the
1487 state, and all regulations adopted and promulgated by the



1488 department. Enforcement officers may exercise such powers in any
1489 county of the State of Mississippi and on any waters of the state,
1490 and they are hereby authorized to carry firearms or other weapons,
1491 concealed or otherwise, and they shall investigate all persons,
1492 corporations and otherwise who are alleged to have violated any
1493 laws, and make affidavits, arrests and serve papers of any court
1494 of competent jurisdiction, in like manner as is provided for
1495 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, when the same shall be in connection
1496 with the enforcement of the seafood laws of the State of
1497 Mississippi and such other laws and regulations of this state as
1498 the department may designate. The enforcement officers may seize
1499 at any time aquatic life caught, taken or transported in a manner
1500 contrary to the laws of this state, and may confiscate and dispose
1501 of the same. Any net or other paraphernalia used or employed in
1502 connection with a violation may be seized, and forfeiture
1503 proceedings may be instituted. Enforcement officers may draft the
1504 aid of captains, crews and boats or licensed vessels to enforce
1505 this chapter and may, without warrant, board and search vessels or
1506 vehicles. The application for any license or permit from the
1507 department to catch, fish, take, transport or handle or process
1508 any form of aquatic life, or the taking, catching, transporting or
1509 handling or processing of any and all aquatic life in this state
1510 shall constitute acquiescence and agreement upon the part of the
1511 owners, captains and crews, employers and dealers to the
1512 provisions of this chapter and the agreement that enforcement



1513 officers may exercise the authority granted under the provisions
1514 hereof.

1515 (3) Prior to entering into performance of their duties or
1516 delegations or as soon after appointment as possible, each
1517 enforcement officer, at the expense of the department, shall
1518 attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of law
1519 enforcement at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training
1520 Academy or other law enforcement training program approved under
1521 Section 45-6-7. However, members of the Enforcement Officers'
1522 Reserve Unit created in subsection (4) of this section may attend
1523 the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy at the
1524 expense of the department if it deems the training necessary or
1525 desirable. No enforcement officer shall be entitled to payment of
1526 salary after the first twelve (12) months in office if he has
1527 either failed to attend the academy or has failed to comply with
1528 other qualifications or successfully complete any law enforcement
1529 qualification examinations as the director deems necessary. The
1530 enforcement officers shall, on a periodic basis, be required to
1531 attend additional advanced courses in law enforcement in order
1532 that they will be properly improved and trained in the modern,
1533 technical advances of law enforcement.

1534 (4) (a) There is hereby created an Enforcement Officers'
1535 Reserve Unit, hereinafter termed "the reserve," to assist the
1536 enforcement officers in the performance of their duties under this
1537 chapter. The reserve shall consist of volunteers who are approved



1538 by the Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources or
1539 his designee. The members of the reserve shall serve without pay.
1540 Reserve officers shall be in such numbers as determined by the
1541 enforcement needs, with the maximum strength of reserve officers
1542 limited to the same number as enforcement officers.

1543 (b) To be eligible for membership in the reserve, an
1544 applicant must be twenty-one (21) years of age, be a high school
1545 graduate or its equivalent, be in good physical condition, have a
1546 Mississippi driver's license, be in good standing with the
1547 community, be available for training and duty, not be a member of
1548 any police, auxiliary police, civil defense, or private security
1549 agency, have never been convicted of a felony, and have one (1) of
1550 the following:

1551 (i) An honorable discharge or honorable separation
1552 certificate from one (1) of the United States military services;

1553 (ii) Three (3) years of responsible post-high
1554 school work experience that required the ability to deal
1555 effectively with individuals and groups of persons;

1556 (iii) Successful completion of sixty (60) semester
1557 hours at an accredited college or university; or

1558 (iv) The qualifications as are outlined in this
1559 section for enforcement officers.

1560 Members of the immediate family of enforcement officers shall
1561 not be eligible for the reserve unless a special waiver is
1562 granted.



1563 Upon acceptance into the reserve, members shall receive a
1564 temporary appointment for one (1) year. During this year of
1565 temporary status, members must successfully complete the required
1566 training and must qualify on the same firearms course as
1567 enforcement officers.

1568 (c) The reserve shall be under the leadership and
1569 direction of the executive director or his designee. The training
1570 of the reserve shall be conducted by an enforcement officer. The
1571 reserve shall meet at least once each month for the purpose of
1572 training and transacting any business as may come before it. The
1573 executive director shall be notified in writing of all meetings of
1574 the reserve and the time and place of the meetings shall be
1575 recorded with the executive director. The executive director
1576 shall prepare a reserve officer's manual with the advice and
1577 consent of the department. The manual shall include, but is not
1578 limited to, the following: activities and operations, training,
1579 administration and duties. During active service, the reserve
1580 shall be under the direction of the executive director or his
1581 designated representative. When a reserve officer is on active
1582 duty and assigned to a specific enforcement officer, he shall be
1583 under the direct supervision of that officer. Reserve officers
1584 serve at the discretion of the executive director and may be
1585 dismissed by him. Reserve officers shall furnish their own
1586 uniforms and other personal equipment if the executive director
1587 does not provide such items.



1588 (d) The executive director may require members of the
1589 Enforcement Officers' Reserve Unit to attend officer reserve
1590 training programs conducted by county or municipal agencies.

1591 (e) The executive director may issue uniforms to such
1592 reserve officers and may authorize the issuance of any state
1593 equipment necessary for the reserve officers to adequately assist
1594 law enforcement officers. The executive director may develop a
1595 reserve officer identification system to accomplish the issuance
1596 of such items in accordance with the State Auditor guidelines.

1597 (f) If the executive director determines that a member
1598 of the Enforcement Officers' Reserve Unit may attend a training
1599 program as authorized under this section, it shall require that
1600 reserve officer to sign an agreement, prior to attending a
1601 training program, which shall stipulate that if the reserve
1602 officer accepts employment from any other public or private law
1603 enforcement agency within three (3) years after completion of his
1604 training program, the reserve officer or the respective hiring law
1605 enforcement agency shall reimburse the department for the total
1606 cost of his training program. By October 1 of each year, the
1607 department shall provide the Conservation and Water Resources
1608 Committee of the Mississippi House of Representatives and the
1609 Ports and Marine Resources Committee of the Mississippi Senate a
1610 listing which contains each name and the respective cost of
1611 training each reserve officer received during the previous year.



Any warrants executed under the authority of this section shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 20. Section 67-1-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

67-1-17. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to have or possess either alcoholic beverages or personal property intended for use in violating the provisions of this article, or regulations prescribed under this article, or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972. No property rights shall exist in any such personal property or alcoholic beverages. All such personal property and alcoholic beverages shall be considered contraband and shall be seized and forfeited to the State of Mississippi.

(2) The following are subject to forfeiture:

(a) All alcoholic beverages which have been manufactured, distilled, distributed, dispensed or acquired in violation of this article or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(b) All raw materials, products and equipment of any kind which are used, or intended for use, in manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing or exporting any alcoholic beverage in violation of this article or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972;



1635 (c) All property which is used, or intended for use, as
1636 a container for property described in items (a) or (b) of this
1637 subsection;

1638 (d) All conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles or
1639 vessels, which are used, or intended for use, to transport, or in
1640 any manner to facilitate the transportation, for the purpose of
1641 sale or receipt, possession or concealment, of property described
1642 in item (a) of this subsection which is in excess of six (6)
1643 gallons or of property described in item (b) of this subsection;
1644 however,

1645 (i) No conveyance used by any person as a common
1646 carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is
1647 subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that
1648 the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a
1649 consenting party or privy to a violation of this article or
1650 Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972;

1651 (ii) No conveyance is subject to forfeiture under
1652 this section by reason of any act or omission proved by the owner
1653 thereof to have been committed or omitted without his knowledge or
1654 consent; if the confiscating authority has reason to believe that
1655 the conveyance is a leased or rented conveyance, then the
1656 confiscating authority shall notify the owner of the conveyance
1657 within five (5) days of the confiscation; and

1658 (iii) A forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a
1659 bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the



1660 secured party if he neither had knowledge of nor consented to the
1661 act or omission;

1662 (e) All money, deadly weapons, books, records and
1663 research products and materials, including formulas, microfilm,
1664 tapes and data which are used, or intended for use, in violation
1665 of this article or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of
1666 1972.

1667 (3) Property subject to forfeiture may be seized by the
1668 Alcoholic Beverage Control Division and its agents, local law
1669 enforcement officers, Mississippi Highway Patrol officers and
1670 other law enforcement personnel charged by Section 67-1-91, with
1671 enforcing the provisions of this article upon process issued by
1672 any appropriate court having jurisdiction over the property.
1673 Seizure without process may be made if:

1674 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
1675 under a search warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act or
1676 an administrative inspection under Section 67-1-37(k);

1677 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the
1678 subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal
1679 injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this article or
1680 Chapter 31 of Article 97, Mississippi Code of 1972; or

1681 (c) The Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the
1682 State Tax Commission and other law enforcement personnel described
1683 in this subsection have probable cause to believe that the



property was used or is intended to be used in violation of this article or Chapter 31 of Article 97, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(4) Alcoholic beverages and raw materials seized or detained under the authority of this article or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972, is deemed to be in the custody of the agent or agency so seizing the property and subject only to the orders and decrees of the court having jurisdiction over the property. When such property is seized it may be retained as evidence until final disposition of the cause in which such property is involved, and then the agent or agency so seizing the property shall physically transfer such alcoholic beverage or raw material to the Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the State Tax Commission together with an appropriate inventory of the items seized. Alcoholic beverages and raw materials seized or detained under the authority of this section shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Section 67-1-18.

(5) Any property other than alcoholic beverages and raw materials seized or detained pursuant to this article or Chapter 31 of Title 97, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be deemed to be in the custody of the agent or agency so seizing the property and subject only to the orders and decrees of the court having jurisdiction over the property. When such property is seized it may be retained as evidence until the final disposition of the cause in which such property is involved. Property seized or



1709 detained other than alcoholic beverages or raw materials shall be
1710 disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Sections 67-1-93,
1711 67-1-95 and 67-1-97.

1712 **SECTION 21.** Section 69-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1713 amended as follows:

1714 69-29-1. (1) (a) There is established the Mississippi
1715 Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau.

1716 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce shall
1717 appoint a director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock
1718 Theft Bureau. Such director shall have at least five (5) years of
1719 law enforcement experience. Such director shall be responsible
1720 solely to the supervision of the Commissioner of Agriculture and
1721 Commerce and to no other person or entity. Such director may be
1722 discharged only for just cause shown.

1723 (c) The director may employ twelve (12) agricultural
1724 and livestock theft investigators. Each investigator shall be
1725 certified as a law enforcement officer, successfully completing at
1726 least a nine-week training course, in accordance with Section
1727 45-6-11. The curriculum for the training of constables shall not
1728 be sufficient for meeting the certification requirements of this
1729 paragraph. In the selection of investigators under this section,
1730 preference shall be given to persons who have previous law
1731 enforcement experience.

1732 (d) The director appointed under this section, under
1733 the direction, control and supervision of the commissioner, and



the investigators employed under this section shall perform only the duties described in subsection (2) of this section and shall not be assigned any other duties.

(2) The director appointed under this section and the investigators employed under this section shall have the following powers, duties and authority:

(a) To enforce all of the provisions of Sections 69-29-9 and 69-29-11, and particularly those portions requiring persons transporting livestock to have a bill of sale in their possession; to make investigations of violations of such sections and to arrest persons violating same;

(b) To enforce all of the laws of this state enacted for the purpose of preventing the theft of livestock, poultry, timber and agricultural, aquacultural and timber products and implements; to make investigations of violations thereof and to arrest persons violating same;

(c) To cooperate with all regularly constituted law enforcement officers relative to the matters herein set forth;

(d) To serve warrants and other process emanating from any court of lawful jurisdiction, including search warrants, in all matters herein set forth;

(e) To carry proper credentials evidencing their authority, which shall be exhibited to any person making demand therefor;



1758 (f) To make arrests without warrant in compliance with
1759 Section 1 of this act in all matters herein set forth in cases
1760 where same is authorized under the constitutional and general laws
1761 of this state;

1762 (g) To handle the registration of brands of cattle and
1763 livestock;

1764 (h) To investigate, prevent, apprehend and arrest those
1765 persons anywhere in the state who are violating any of the laws
1766 administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce,
1767 including, but not limited to, all agriculture-related crimes;

1768 (i) To access and examine records of any person,
1769 business or entity that harvests, loads, carries, receives or
1770 manufactures timber products as defined in this section. Each
1771 such person or entity shall permit the director or any
1772 investigator of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft
1773 Bureau to examine records of the sale, transfer or purchase of
1774 timber or timber products, including, but not limited to,
1775 contracts, load tickets, settlement sheets, drivers' logs,
1776 invoices, checks and any other records or documents related to an
1777 ongoing investigation of the Mississippi Agricultural and
1778 Livestock Theft Bureau;

1779 (j) To conduct training for law enforcement regarding
1780 laws enforced by the bureau and to assist any other law
1781 enforcement agencies in responding to matters that may be related
1782 to agriculture and commerce in the State of Mississippi and in



1783 cases of natural disasters or other disasters to respond as needed
1784 or as requested by other agencies.

1785 (3) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce shall
1786 furnish such investigators with such vehicles, equipment and
1787 supplies as may be necessary. All expenses of same, and all other
1788 expenses incurred in the administration of this section, shall be
1789 paid from such appropriation as may be made by the Legislature.

1790 (4) The Mississippi Department of Revenue and its agents and
1791 employees shall cooperate with such investigators by furnishing to
1792 them information as to any possible or suspected violations of any
1793 of the laws mentioned herein, including specifically Section
1794 69-29-27, and in any other lawful manner.

1795 (5) The conservation officers of the Department of Wildlife,
1796 Fisheries and Parks are authorized to cooperate with and assist
1797 the agricultural and livestock theft investigators in the
1798 enforcement and apprehension of violators of laws regarding
1799 agricultural and livestock theft.

1800 (6) The Mississippi Forestry Commission employees are
1801 excluded from any timber and timber products theft investigative
1802 responsibilities except when technical expertise is needed and
1803 requested through the State Forester or his designee.

1804 (7) For the purposes of this section, "timber product" means
1805 timber of all kinds, species or sizes, including, but not limited
1806 to, logs, lumber, poles, pilings, posts, blocks, bolts, cordwood
1807 and pulpwood, pine stumpwood, pine knots or other distillate wood,



1808 crossties, turpentine (crude gum), pine straw, firewood and all
1809 other products derived from timber or trees that have a sale or
1810 commercial value.

1811 **SECTION 22.** Section 93-29-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1812 amended as follows:

1813 93-29-17. **Warrant to take physical custody of child.** (a)
1814 If a petition under this chapter contains allegations, and the
1815 court finds that there is a credible risk that the child is
1816 imminently likely to be wrongfully removed, the court may issue an
1817 ex parte warrant to take physical custody of the child.

1818 (b) The respondent on a petition under subsection (a) must
1819 be afforded an opportunity to be heard at the earliest possible
1820 time after the ex parte warrant is executed, but not later than
1821 the next judicial day unless a hearing on that date is impossible.
1822 In that event, the court shall hold the hearing on the first
1823 judicial day possible.

1824 (c) An ex parte warrant under subsection (a) to take
1825 physical custody of a child must:

1826 (1) Recite the facts upon which a determination of a
1827 credible risk of imminent wrongful removal of the child is based;

1828 (2) Direct law enforcement officers to take physical
1829 custody of the child immediately;

1830 (3) State the date and time for the hearing on the
1831 petition; and



(4) Provide for the safe interim placement of the child pending further order of the court.

(d) If feasible, before issuing a warrant and before determining the placement of the child after the warrant is executed, the court may order a search of the relevant databases of the National Crime Information Center system and similar state databases to determine if either the petitioner or respondent has a history of domestic violence, stalking or child abuse or neglect.

(e) The petition and warrant must be served on the respondent when or immediately after the child is taken into physical custody and in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(f) A warrant to take physical custody of a child, issued by this state or another state, is enforceable throughout this state. If the court finds that a less intrusive remedy will not be effective, it may authorize law enforcement officers to enter private property to take physical custody of the child. If required by exigent circumstances, the court may authorize law enforcement officers to make a forcible entry at any hour.

(g) If the court finds, after a hearing, that a petitioner sought an ex parte warrant under subsection (a) for the purpose of harassment or in bad faith, the court may award the respondent reasonable attorney's fees, costs and expenses.

(h) This chapter does not affect the availability of relief allowed under the law of this state other than this chapter.



1857 **SECTION 23.** Section 97-3-54.7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1858 amended as follows:

1859 97-3-54.7. (1) In addition to any other civil or criminal
1860 penalties provided by law, any property used in the commission of
1861 a violation of this act shall be forfeited as provided herein.

1862 (a) The following property shall be subject to
1863 forfeiture if used or intended for use as an instrumentality in or
1864 used in furtherance of a violation of this act:

1865 (i) Conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles or
1866 vessels;

1867 (ii) Books, records, telecommunication equipment,
1868 or computers;

1869 (iii) Money or weapons;

1870 (iv) Everything of value furnished, or intended to
1871 be furnished, in exchange for an act in violation and all proceeds
1872 traceable to the exchange;

1873 (v) Negotiable instruments and securities;

1874 (vi) Any property, real or personal, directly or
1875 indirectly acquired or received in a violation or as an inducement
1876 to violate;

1877 (vii) Any property traceable to proceeds from a
1878 violation; and

1879 (viii) Any real property, including any right,
1880 title and interest in the whole of or any part of any lot or tract
1881 of land used in furtherance of a violation of this act.



1882 (b) (i) No property used by any person as a common
1883 carrier in the transaction of business as a common carrier is
1884 subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that
1885 the owner or other person in charge of the property is a
1886 consenting party or privy to a violation of this act;

1887 (ii) No property is subject to forfeiture under
1888 this section by reason of any act or omission proved by the owner
1889 thereof to have been committed or omitted without his knowledge or
1890 consent; if the confiscating authority has reason to believe that
1891 the property is a leased or rented property, then the confiscating
1892 authority shall notify the owner of the property within five (5)
1893 days of the confiscation or within five (5) days of forming reason
1894 to believe that the property is a leased or rented property;

1895 (iii) Forfeiture of a property encumbered by a
1896 bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the
1897 secured party if he neither had knowledge of nor consented to the
1898 act or omission.

1899 (2) No property shall be forfeited under the provisions of
1900 this section, to the extent of the interest of an owner, by reason
1901 of any act or omission established by him to have been committed
1902 or omitted without his knowledge or consent.

1903 (3) Seizure without process may be made if the seizure is
1904 incident to an arrest or a search under a search warrant in
1905 compliance with Section 1 of this act, or an inspection under an
1906 administrative inspection warrant.



1907 (4) (a) When any property is seized under this section,
1908 proceedings shall be instituted within a reasonable period of time
1909 from the date of seizure or the subject property shall be
1910 immediately returned to the party from whom seized.

1911 (b) A petition for forfeiture shall be filed by the
1912 Attorney General or a district attorney in the name of the State
1913 of Mississippi, the county, or the municipality, and may be filed
1914 in the county in which the seizure is made, the county in which
1915 the criminal prosecution is brought, or the county in which the
1916 owner of the seized property is found. Forfeiture proceedings may
1917 be brought in the circuit court or the county court if a county
1918 court exists in the county and the value of the seized property is
1919 within the jurisdictional limits of the county court as set forth
1920 in Section 9-9-21. A copy of the petition shall be served upon
1921 the following persons by service of process in the same manner as
1922 in civil cases:

1923 (i) The owner of the property, if address is
1924 known;

1925 (ii) Any secured party who has registered his lien
1926 or filed a financing statement as provided by law, if the identity
1927 of the secured party can be ascertained by the entity filing the
1928 petition by making a good faith effort to ascertain the identity
1929 of the secured party;

1930 (iii) Any other bona fide lienholder or secured
1931 party or other person holding an interest in the property in the



1932 nature of a security interest of whom the seizing law enforcement
1933 agency has actual knowledge; and

1934 (iv) Any person in possession of property subject
1935 to forfeiture at the time that it was seized.

1936 (5) If the property is a motor vehicle susceptible of
1937 titling under the Mississippi Motor Vehicle Title Law and if there
1938 is any reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle has been
1939 titled, inquiry of the Department of Revenue shall be made as to
1940 what the records of the Department of Revenue show as to who is
1941 the record owner of the vehicle and who, if anyone, holds any lien
1942 or security interest that affects the vehicle.

1943 (6) If the property is a motor vehicle and is not titled in
1944 the State of Mississippi, then an attempt shall be made to
1945 ascertain the name and address of the person in whose name the
1946 vehicle is licensed, and if the vehicle is licensed in a state
1947 which has in effect a certificate of title law, inquiry of the
1948 appropriate agency of that state shall be made as to what the
1949 records of the agency show as to who is the record owner of the
1950 vehicle and who, if anyone, holds any lien, security interest or
1951 other instrument in the nature of a security device that affects
1952 the vehicle.

1953 (7) If the property is of a nature that a financing
1954 statement is required by the laws of this state to be filed to
1955 perfect a security interest affecting the property and if there is
1956 any reasonable cause to believe that a financing statement



1957 covering the security interest has been filed under the laws of
1958 this state, inquiry of the appropriate office designated in
1959 Section 75-9-501, shall be made as to what the records show as to
1960 who is the record owner of the property and who, if anyone, has
1961 filed a financing statement affecting the property.

1962 (8) If the property is an aircraft or part thereof and if
1963 there is any reasonable cause to believe that an instrument in the
1964 nature of a security device affects the property, inquiry of the
1965 Mississippi Department of Transportation shall be made as to what
1966 the records of the Federal Aviation Administration show as to who
1967 is the record owner of the property and who, if anyone, holds an
1968 instrument in the nature of a security device which affects the
1969 property.

1970 (9) If the answer to an inquiry states that the record owner
1971 of the property is any person other than the person who was in
1972 possession of it when it was seized, or states that any person
1973 holds any lien, encumbrance, security interest, other interest in
1974 the nature of a security interest, mortgage or deed of trust that
1975 affects the property, the record owner and also any lienholder,
1976 secured party, other person who holds an interest in the property
1977 in the nature of a security interest, or holder of an encumbrance,
1978 mortgage or deed of trust that affects the property is to be named
1979 in the petition of forfeiture and is to be served with process in
1980 the same manner as in civil cases.



1981 (10) If the owner of the property cannot be found and served
1982 with a copy of the petition of forfeiture, or if no person was in
1983 possession of the property subject to forfeiture at the time that
1984 it was seized and the owner of the property is unknown, there
1985 shall be filed with the clerk of the court in which the proceeding
1986 is pending an affidavit to such effect, whereupon the clerk of the
1987 court shall publish notice of the hearing addressed to "the
1988 Unknown Owner of _____," filling in the blank space with
1989 a reasonably detailed description of the property subject to
1990 forfeiture. Service by publication shall contain the other
1991 requisites prescribed in Section 11-33-41, and shall be served as
1992 provided in Section 11-33-37, for publication of notice for
1993 attachments at law.

1994 (11) No proceedings instituted pursuant to the provisions of
1995 this section shall proceed to hearing unless the judge conducting
1996 the hearing is satisfied that this section has been complied with.
1997 Any answer received from an inquiry required by this section shall
1998 be introduced into evidence at the hearing.

1999 (12) (a) An owner of a property that has been seized shall
2000 file an answer within thirty (30) days after the completion of
2001 service of process. If an answer is not filed, the court shall
2002 hear evidence that the property is subject to forfeiture and
2003 forfeit the property to the seizing law enforcement agency. If an
2004 answer is filed, a time for hearing on forfeiture shall be set
2005 within thirty (30) days of filing the answer or at the succeeding



term of court if court would not be in session within thirty (30) days after filing the answer. The court may postpone the forfeiture hearing to a date past the time any criminal action is pending against the owner upon request of any party.

(b) If the owner of the property has filed an answer denying that the property is subject to forfeiture, then the burden is on the petitioner to prove that the property is subject to forfeiture. However, if an answer has not been filed by the owner of the property, the petition for forfeiture may be introduced into evidence and is prima facie evidence that the property is subject to forfeiture. The burden of proof placed upon the petitioner in regard to property forfeited under the provisions of this chapter shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

(c) At the hearing any claimant of any right, title or interest in the property may prove his lien, encumbrance, security interest, other interest in the nature of a security interest, mortgage or deed of trust to be bona fide and created without knowledge or consent that the property was to be used so as to cause the property to be subject to forfeiture.

(d) If it is found that the property is subject to forfeiture, then the judge shall forfeit the property. However, if proof at the hearing discloses that the interest of any bona fide lienholder, secured party, other person holding an interest in the property in the nature of a security interest, or any



holder of a bona fide encumbrance, mortgage or deed of trust is greater than or equal to the present value of the property, the court shall order the property released to him. If the interest is less than the present value of the property and if the proof shows that the property is subject to forfeiture, the court shall order the property forfeited.

(13) Unless otherwise provided herein, all personal property which is forfeited under this section shall be liquidated and, after deduction of court costs and the expense of liquidation, the proceeds shall be divided as follows:

(a) If only one (1) law enforcement agency participates in the underlying criminal case out of which the forfeiture arises, fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and deposited in the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund, and fifty percent (50%) shall be deposited and credited to the budget of the participating law enforcement agency.

(b) If more than one (1) law enforcement agency participates in the underlying criminal case out of which the forfeiture arises, fifty percent (50%) of the proceeds shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and deposited in the Victims of Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Fund, twenty-five percent (25%) of the proceeds shall be deposited and credited to the budget of the law enforcement agency whose officers initiated the criminal case and twenty-five percent (25%)



shall be divided equitably between or among the other participating law enforcement agencies, and shall be deposited and credited to the budgets of the participating law enforcement agencies. In the event that the other participating law enforcement agencies cannot agree on the division of their twenty-five percent (25%), a petition shall be filed by any one of them in the court in which the civil forfeiture case is brought and the court shall make an equitable division.

(14) All money forfeited under this section shall be divided, deposited and credited in the same manner as provided in subsection (13).

(15) All real estate forfeited under the provisions of this section shall be sold to the highest and best bidder at a public auction for cash, the auction to be conducted by the chief law enforcement officer of the initiating law enforcement agency, or his designee, at such place, on such notice and in accordance with the same procedure, as far as practicable, as is required in the case of sales of land under execution at law. The proceeds of the sale shall first be applied to the cost and expense in administering and conducting the sale, then to the satisfaction of all mortgages, deeds of trust, liens and encumbrances of record on the property. The remaining proceeds shall be divided, forwarded and deposited in the same manner as provided in subsection (13).

(16) (a) Any county or municipal law enforcement agency may maintain, repair, use and operate for official purposes all



2081 property described in subsection (1)(a)(i) of this section that
2082 has been forfeited to the agency if it is free from any interest
2083 of a bona fide lienholder, secured party or other party who holds
2084 an interest in the property in the nature of a security interest.
2085 The county or municipal law enforcement agency may purchase the
2086 interest of a bona fide lienholder, secured party or other party
2087 who holds an interest so that the property can be released for its
2088 use. If the property is a motor vehicle susceptible of titling
2089 under the Mississippi Motor Vehicle Title Law, the law enforcement
2090 agency shall be deemed to be the purchaser, and the certificate of
2091 title shall be issued to it as required by subsection (9) of this
2092 section.

2093 (b) (i) If a vehicle is forfeited to or transferred to
2094 a sheriff's department, then the sheriff may transfer the vehicle
2095 to the county for official or governmental use as the board of
2096 supervisors may direct.

2097 (ii) If a vehicle is forfeited to or transferred
2098 to a police department, then the police chief may transfer the
2099 vehicle to the municipality for official or governmental use as
2100 the governing authority of the municipality may direct.

2101 (c) If a motor vehicle forfeited to a county or
2102 municipal law enforcement agency becomes obsolete or is no longer
2103 needed for official or governmental purposes, it may be disposed
2104 of in accordance with Section 19-7-5 or in the manner provided by
2105 law for disposing of municipal property.



2106 (17) The forfeiture procedure set forth in this section is
2107 the sole remedy of any claimant, and no court shall have
2108 jurisdiction to interfere therewith by replevin, injunction,
2109 supersedeas or in any other manner.

2110 **SECTION 24.** Section 97-17-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2111 amended as follows:

2112 97-17-4. (1) All property, real or personal, including
2113 money, used in the course of, intended for use in the course of,
2114 derived from, or realized through, conduct in violation of a
2115 provision of Section 97-17-1 or 97-17-3 is subject to civil
2116 forfeiture to the state pursuant to the provisions of this
2117 section; provided, however, that a forfeiture of personal property
2118 encumbered by a bona fide security interest or real property
2119 encumbered by a bona fide mortgage, deed of trust, lien or
2120 encumbrance of record shall be subject to the interest of the
2121 secured party or subject to the interest of the holder of the
2122 mortgage deed of trust, lien of encumbrance of record if such
2123 secured party or holder neither had knowledge of or consented to
2124 the act or omission.

2125 (2) Property subject to forfeiture may be seized by law
2126 enforcement officers upon process issued by any appropriate court
2127 having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process
2128 may be made if:



2129 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
2130 under a search warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act or
2131 an inspection under a lawful administrative inspection;

2132 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the
2133 subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal
2134 injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this section.

2135 (3) When any property is seized pursuant to this section,
2136 proceedings under this section shall be instituted promptly.

2137 (4) (a) A petition for forfeiture shall be filed promptly
2138 in the name of the State of Mississippi with the clerk of the
2139 circuit court of the county in which the seizure is made. A copy
2140 of such petition shall be served upon the following persons by
2141 service of process in the same manner as in civil cases:

2142 (i) The owner of the property, if address is
2143 known;

2144 (ii) Any secured party who has registered his lien
2145 or filed a financing statement as provided by law, if the identity
2146 of such secured party can be ascertained by the state by making a
2147 good faith effort to ascertain the identity of such secured party
2148 as described in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) of this
2149 subsection;

2150 (iii) Any other bona fide lienholder or secured
2151 party or other person holding an interest in the property in the
2152 nature of a security interest of whom the state has actual
2153 knowledge;



2154 (iv) A holder of a mortgage, deed of trust, lien
2155 or encumbrance of record, if the property is real estate by making
2156 a good faith inquiry as described in paragraph (g) of this
2157 section; and

2158 (v) Any person in possession of property subject
2159 to forfeiture at the time that it was seized.

2160 (b) If the property is a motor vehicle susceptible of
2161 titling under the Mississippi Motor Vehicle Title Law and if there
2162 is any reasonable cause to believe that the vehicle has been
2163 titled, the state shall make inquiry of the * * * Department of
2164 Revenue as to what the records of the * * * Department of Revenue
2165 show as to who is the record owner of the vehicle and who, if
2166 anyone, holds any lien or security interest which affects the
2167 vehicle.

2168 (c) If the property is a motor vehicle and is not
2169 titled in the State of Mississippi, then the state shall attempt
2170 to ascertain the name and address of the person in whose name the
2171 vehicle is licensed, and if the vehicle is licensed in a state
2172 which has in effect a certificate of title law, the state shall
2173 make inquiry of the appropriate agency of that state as to what
2174 the records of the agency show as to who is the record owner of
2175 the vehicle and who, if anyone, holds any lien, security interest,
2176 or other instrument in the nature of a security device which
2177 affects the vehicle.



2178 (d) If the property is of a nature that a financing
2179 statement is required by the laws of this state to be filed to
2180 perfect a security interest affecting the property and if there is
2181 any reasonable cause to believe that a financing statement
2182 covering the security interest has been filed under the laws of
2183 this state, the state shall make inquiry of the appropriate office
2184 designated in Section 75-9-501 as to what the records show as to
2185 who is the record owner of the property and who, if anyone, has
2186 filed a financing statement affecting the property.

2187 (e) If the property is an aircraft or part thereof and
2188 if there is any reasonable cause to believe that an instrument in
2189 the nature of a security device affects the property, then the
2190 state shall make inquiry of the administrator of the Federal
2191 Aviation Administration as to what the records of the
2192 administrator show as to who is the record owner of the property
2193 and who, if anyone, holds an instrument in the nature of a
2194 security device which affects the property.

2195 (f) In the case of all other personal property subject
2196 to forfeiture, if there is any reasonable cause to believe that an
2197 instrument in the nature of a security device affects the
2198 property, then the state shall make a good faith inquiry to
2199 identify the holder of any such instrument.

2200 (g) If the property is real estate, the state shall
2201 make inquiry at the appropriate places to determine who is the



2202 owner of record and who, if anyone is a holder of a bona fide
2203 mortgage, deed of trust, lien or encumbrance.

2204 (h) In the event the answer to an inquiry states that
2205 the record owner of the property is any person other than the
2206 person who was in possession of it when it was seized, or states
2207 that any person holds any lien, encumbrance, security interest,
2208 other interest in the nature of a security interest, mortgage or
2209 deed of trust which affects the property, the state shall cause
2210 any record owner and also any lienholder, secured party, other
2211 person who holds an interest in the property in the nature of a
2212 security interest, or holder of an encumbrance, mortgage or deed
2213 of trust which affects the property to be named in the petition of
2214 forfeiture and to be served with process in the same manner as in
2215 civil cases.

2216 (i) If the owner of the property cannot be found and
2217 served with a copy of the petition of forfeiture, or if no person
2218 was in possession of the property subject to forfeiture at the
2219 time that it was seized and the owner of the property is unknown,
2220 the state shall file with the clerk of the court in which the
2221 proceeding is pending an affidavit to such effect, whereupon the
2222 clerk of the court shall publish notice of the hearing addressed
2223 to "the Unknown Owner of _____," filling in the blank
2224 space with a reasonably detailed description of the property
2225 subject to forfeiture. Service by publication shall contain the
2226 other requisites prescribed in Section 11-33-41, and shall be



2227 served as provided in Section 11-33-37 for publication of notice
2228 for attachments at law.

2229 (j) No proceedings instituted pursuant to the
2230 provisions of this article shall proceed to hearing unless the
2231 judge conducting the hearing is satisfied that this section has
2232 been complied with. Any answer received from an inquiry required
2233 by paragraphs (b) through (g) of this section shall be introduced
2234 into evidence at the hearing.

2235 (5) (a) An owner of property that has been seized shall
2236 file a verified answer within twenty (20) days after the
2237 completion of service of process. If no answer is filed, the
2238 court shall hear evidence that the property is subject to
2239 forfeiture and forfeit the property to the state. If an answer is
2240 filed, a time for hearing on forfeiture shall be set within thirty
2241 (30) days of filing the answer or at the succeeding term of court
2242 if court would not be in progress within thirty (30) days after
2243 filing the answer. Provided, however, that upon request by the
2244 state or the owner of the property, the court may postpone said
2245 forfeiture hearing to a date past the time any criminal action is
2246 pending against said owner.

2247 (b) If the owner of the property has filed a verified
2248 answer denying that the property is subject to forfeiture, then
2249 the burden is on the state to prove that the property is subject
2250 to forfeiture. The burden of proof placed upon the state shall be
2251 clear and convincing proof. However, if no answer has been filed



2252 by the owner of the property, the petition for forfeiture may be
2253 introduced into evidence and is prima facie evidence that the
2254 property is subject to forfeiture.

2255 (c) At the hearing any claimant of any right, title, or
2256 interest in the property may prove his lien, encumbrance, security
2257 interest, other interest in the nature of a security interest,
2258 mortgage or deed of trust to be bona fide and created without
2259 knowledge or consent that the property was to be used so as to
2260 cause the property to be subject to forfeiture.

2261 (d) If it is found that the property is subject to
2262 forfeiture, then the judge shall forfeit the property to the
2263 state. However, if proof at the hearing discloses that the
2264 interest of any bona fide lienholder, secured party, other person
2265 holding an interest in the property in the nature of a security
2266 interest or any holder of a bona fide encumbrance, mortgage or
2267 deed of trust is greater than or equal to the present value of the
2268 property, the court shall order the property released to him. If
2269 such interest is less than the present value of the property and
2270 if the proof shows that the property is subject to forfeiture, the
2271 court shall order the property forfeited to the state.

2272 (6) (a) All personal property, including money, which is
2273 forfeited to the state and is not capable of being sold at public
2274 auction shall be liquidated and the proceeds, after deduction of
2275 all storage and court costs, shall be forwarded to the State
2276 Treasurer and deposited in the General Fund of the state.



2277 (b) All real estate which is forfeited to the state
2278 shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction to be
2279 conducted by the state at such place, on such notice and in
2280 accordance with the same procedure, as far as practicable, as is
2281 required in the case of sales of land under execution of law. The
2282 proceeds of such sale shall first be applied to the cost and
2283 expense in administering and conducting such sale, then to the
2284 satisfaction of all mortgages, deeds of trusts, liens and
2285 encumbrances of record on such property. All proceeds in excess
2286 of the amount necessary for the cost of the sale of such land and
2287 the satisfaction of any liens thereon shall be deposited in the
2288 General Fund of the State Treasury.

2289 (c) All other property that has been seized by the
2290 state and that has been forfeited shall, except as otherwise
2291 provided, be sold at a public auction for cash by the state to the
2292 highest and best bidder after advertising the sale for at least
2293 once each week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the last notice to
2294 appear not more than ten (10) days nor less than five (5) days
2295 prior to such sale, in a newspaper having a general circulation
2296 throughout the State of Mississippi. Such notices shall contain a
2297 description of the property to be sold and a statement of the time
2298 and place of sale. It shall not be necessary to the validity of
2299 such sale either to have the property present at the place of sale
2300 or to have the name of the owner thereof stated in such notice.



The proceeds of the sale shall be delivered to the circuit clerk and shall be disposed of as follows:

(i) To any bona fide lienholder, secured party, or other party holding an interest in the property in the nature of a security interest, to the extent of his interest; and

(ii) The balance, if any, after deduction of all storage and court costs, shall be forwarded to the State Treasurer and deposited with and used as general funds of the state.

(d) The * * * Department of Revenue shall issue a certificate of title to any person who purchases property under the provisions of this section when a certificate of title is required under the laws of this state.

SECTION 25. Section 97-21-101, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-21-101. (1) All property, real or personal, including money, used in the course of, intended for use in the course of, derived from, or realized through, conduct in violation of Section 97-21-53, 97-21-55, 97-21-57 or 97-23-89 is subject to civil forfeiture to the state pursuant to the provisions of Section 97-21-103; provided, however, that a forfeiture of personal property encumbered by a bona fide security interest or real property encumbered by a bona fide mortgage, deed of trust, lien or encumbrance of record shall be subject to the interest of the secured party or subject to the interest of the holder of the mortgage, deed of trust, lien or encumbrance of record if such



2326 secured party or holder neither had knowledge of or consented to
2327 the act or omission.

2328 (2) Property subject to forfeiture may be seized by law
2329 enforcement officers upon process issued by any appropriate court
2330 having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process
2331 may be made if:

2332 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
2333 under a search warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act or
2334 an inspection under a lawful administrative inspection;

2335 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the
2336 subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal
2337 injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this article.

2338 (3) The Attorney General, any district attorney or any state
2339 agency having jurisdiction over conduct in violation of Section
2340 97-21-53, 97-21-55, 97-21-57 or 97-23-89 may institute civil
2341 proceedings under this section. In any action brought under this
2342 section, the circuit court shall proceed as soon as practicable to
2343 the hearing and determination. Pending final determination, the
2344 circuit court may at any time enter such injunctions or
2345 restraining orders, or take such actions, including the acceptance
2346 of satisfactory performance bonds, as the court may deem proper.

2347 (4) Any aggrieved person may institute a civil proceeding
2348 against any person or enterprise convicted of engaging in activity
2349 in violation of Section 97-21-53, 97-21-55, 97-21-57 or 97-23-89.
2350 In such proceeding, relief shall be granted in conformity with the



2351 principles that govern the granting of injunctive relief from
2352 threatened loss or damage in other civil cases, except that no
2353 showing of immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage to the
2354 person shall have to be made.

2355 (5) The Attorney General may, upon timely application,
2356 intervene in any civil action or proceeding brought under this
2357 section if he certifies that, in his opinion, the action or
2358 proceeding is of general public importance. In such action or
2359 proceeding, the state shall be entitled to the same relief as if
2360 the Attorney General instituted the action or proceeding.

2361 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a criminal
2362 or civil action or proceeding under this article may be commenced
2363 at any time within five (5) years after the conduct in violation
2364 of law terminates or the cause of action accrues. If a criminal
2365 prosecution or civil action or other proceeding is brought, or
2366 intervened in, to punish, prevent or restrain any violation of
2367 law, the running of the period of limitations prescribed by this
2368 section with respect to any cause of action arising under this
2369 section which is based, in whole or in part, upon any matter
2370 complained of in any such prosecution, action or proceeding shall
2371 be suspended during the pendency of such prosecution, action or
2372 proceeding and for two (2) years following its termination.

2373 (7) The application of one (1) civil remedy under any
2374 provision of this article shall not preclude the application of
2375 any other remedy, civil or criminal, under this article or any



2376 other provision of law. Civil remedies under this article are
2377 supplemental.

2378 **SECTION 26.** Section 97-37-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2379 amended as follows:

2380 97-37-23. (1) Except for persons who are engaged in lawful
2381 business activities or persons who are engaged in educational
2382 activities conducted by educational institutions, it is unlawful
2383 for any person to have in his possession:

2384 (a) Dynamite caps, nitroglycerine caps, fuses,
2385 detonators, dynamite, nitroglycerine, explosives, gas or stink
2386 bombs, or other similar explosives peculiarly possessed and
2387 adapted to aid in the commission of a crime; except such person or
2388 persons who are engaged in a lawful business which ordinarily
2389 requires the use thereof in the ordinary and usual conduct of such
2390 business, and who possess said articles for the purpose of use in
2391 said business;

2392 (b) Any:

2393 (i) Bomb;

2394 (ii) Grenade;

2395 (iii) Rocket having a propellant charge of more
2396 than four (4) ounces;

2397 (iv) Missile having an explosive or incendiary
2398 charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce;

2399 (v) Mine;



2400 (vi) Any combination of parts either designed or
2401 intended for use in converting any device into one or more of the
2402 destructive devices described in this paragraph (b); or

2403 (vii) Any device which consists of or includes a
2404 breakable container including a flammable liquid or compound and a
2405 wick composed of any material which, when ignited, is capable of
2406 igniting such flammable liquid or compound and can be carried or
2407 thrown by one (1) individual acting alone; and

2408 (viii) Or other similar explosives peculiarly
2409 possessed and adapted to aid in the commission of a crime; and

2410 (c) Upon conviction of any person thereof, he shall be
2411 punished by imprisonment in the Penitentiary for a term not to
2412 exceed five (5) years. The possession of such explosives by one
2413 who does not customarily use same in his regular and ordinary
2414 occupational activities shall be prima facie evidence of an
2415 intention to use same for such unlawful purposes.

2416 (2) It shall be the duty of any sheriff, constable, marshal,
2417 or policeman in a municipality, or any person vested with general
2418 police authority, who has reason to believe and does believe that
2419 the above-described explosives are being transported or possessed
2420 for aid in the commission of a crime, forthwith to make a
2421 reasonable search of such person or vehicle, and to seize such
2422 explosives and to at once arrest the person or persons having
2423 possession or control thereof. Such officer or officers
2424 proceeding in good faith shall not be liable either civilly or



2425 criminally for such a search and seizure without a warrant, so
2426 long as said search and seizure is conducted in a reasonable
2427 manner, it appearing that the officer or officers had reason to
2428 believe and did believe that the law was being violated at the
2429 time such search was instituted. And the officer or officers
2430 making such search shall be competent to testify as a witness or
2431 witnesses as to all facts ascertained by means of said reasonable
2432 search or seizure, and all such explosives seized shall be
2433 admitted in evidence. But this section shall not authorize the
2434 search of a residence or home, or room, or building, or the
2435 premises belonging to or in the possession lawfully of the party
2436 suspected, without a search warrant executed in compliance with
2437 Section 1 of this act.

2438 (3) In order to invoke the exception provided in subsection
2439 (1) for persons who possess explosive articles for business
2440 purposes, such person must comply with the provisions of this
2441 subsection as follows:

2442 (a) One or more individuals shall be designated by the
2443 owner of a business employing explosive articles subject to this
2444 section as the custodian for such articles; and

2445 (b) The custodian shall notify the sheriff of any
2446 county wherein such articles are utilized or employed by
2447 registering with the sheriff in writing prior to such use and
2448 including in such registration:



2449 (i) The business name and address of the owner of
2450 the articles;

2451 (ii) The name, address and local address of the
2452 custodian;

2453 (iii) The location of the job site where such
2454 articles shall be employed;

2455 (iv) In the event subject articles will not be in
2456 the immediate possession of the custodian, the custodian shall
2457 advise the sheriff of the specific location where such articles
2458 are left or stored;

2459 (v) Whenever business operations subject to this
2460 section or the storage of articles subject to this section occur
2461 within an incorporated municipality, the mayor or chief of police
2462 shall also be notified as required by this subsection.

2463 (4) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of
2464 subsection (3) of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be
2465 punished by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a term not
2466 to exceed one (1) year or by a fine in an amount not to exceed Ten
2467 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or by both.

2468 (5) The provisions of subsections (3) and (4) of this
2469 section are supplemental to any other statutory provision,
2470 ordinances of local governments or liabilities or duties otherwise
2471 imposed by law.

2472 **SECTION 27.** Section 97-43-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2473 amended as follows:



2474 97-43-9. (1) Any circuit court may, after making due
2475 provision for the rights of innocent persons, enjoin violations of
2476 the provisions of this chapter by issuing appropriate orders and
2477 judgments, including, but not limited to:

2478 (a) Ordering any defendant to divest himself of any
2479 interest in any enterprise, including real property.

2480 (b) Imposing reasonable restrictions upon the future
2481 activities or investments of any defendant, including, but not
2482 limited to, prohibiting any defendant from engaging in the same
2483 type of endeavor as the enterprise in which he was engaged in
2484 violation of the provisions of this chapter.

2485 (c) Ordering the dissolution or reorganization of any
2486 enterprise.

2487 (d) Ordering the suspension or revocation of a license
2488 or permit granted to any enterprise by any agency of the state.

2489 (e) Ordering the forfeiture of the charter of a
2490 corporation organized under the laws of the state, or the
2491 revocation of a certificate authorizing a foreign corporation to
2492 conduct business within the state, upon finding that the board of
2493 directors or a managerial agent acting on behalf of the
2494 corporation, in conducting the affairs of the corporation, has
2495 authorized or engaged in conduct in violation of this chapter and
2496 that, for the prevention of future criminal activity, the public
2497 interest requires the charter of the corporation forfeited and the
2498 corporation dissolved or the certificate revoked.



2499 (2) All property, real or personal, including money, used in
2500 the course of, intended for use in the course of, derived from, or
2501 realized through, conduct in violation of a provision of this
2502 chapter is subject to civil forfeiture to the state pursuant to
2503 the provisions of Section 97-43-11; provided, however, that a
2504 forfeiture of personal property encumbered by a bona fide security
2505 interest or real property encumbered by a bona fide mortgage, deed
2506 of trust, lien or encumbrance of record shall be subject to the
2507 interest of the secured party or subject to the interest of the
2508 holder of the mortgage, deed of trust, lien * * * or encumbrance
2509 of record if such secured party or holder neither had knowledge of
2510 or consented to the act or omission.

2511 (3) Property subject to forfeiture may be seized by law
2512 enforcement officers upon process issued by any appropriate court
2513 having jurisdiction over the property. Seizure without process
2514 may be made if:

2515 (a) The seizure is incident to an arrest or a search
2516 under a search warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act or
2517 an inspection under a lawful administrative inspection;

2518 (b) The property subject to seizure has been the
2519 subject of a prior judgment in favor of the state in a criminal
2520 injunction or forfeiture proceeding based upon this article * * *.

2521 (4) The Attorney General, any district attorney or any state
2522 agency having jurisdiction over conduct in violation of a
2523 provision of this chapter may institute civil proceedings under



2524 this section. In any action brought under this section, the
2525 circuit court shall proceed as soon as practicable to the hearing
2526 and determination. Pending final determination, the circuit court
2527 may at any time enter such injunctions or restraining orders, or
2528 take such actions, including the acceptance of satisfactory
2529 performance bonds, as the court may deem proper.

2530 (5) Any aggrieved person may institute a civil proceeding
2531 under subsection (1) of this section against any person or
2532 enterprise convicted of engaging in activity in violation of this
2533 chapter. In such proceeding, relief shall be granted in
2534 conformity with the principles that govern the granting of
2535 injunctive relief from threatened loss or damage in other civil
2536 cases, except that no showing of immediate and irreparable injury,
2537 loss or damage to the person shall have to be made.

2538 (6) Any person who is injured by reason of any violation of
2539 the provisions of this chapter shall have a cause of action
2540 against any person or enterprise convicted of engaging in activity
2541 in violation of this chapter for threefold the actual damages
2542 sustained and, when appropriate, punitive damages. Such person
2543 shall also recover attorney's * * * fees in the trial and
2544 appellate courts and costs of investigation and litigation,
2545 reasonably incurred.

2546 (a) The defendant or any injured person may demand a
2547 trial by jury in any civil action brought pursuant to this
2548 subsection.



2549 (b) Any injured person shall have a right or claim to
2550 forfeited property or to the proceeds derived therefrom superior
2551 to any right or claim the state has in the same property or
2552 proceeds.

2553 (7) The Attorney General may, upon timely application,
2554 intervene in any civil action or proceeding brought under
2555 subsections (5) or (6) of this section if he certifies that, in
2556 his opinion, the action or proceeding is of general public
2557 importance. In such action or proceeding, the state shall be
2558 entitled to the same relief as if the Attorney General instituted
2559 the action or proceeding.

2560 (8) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a criminal
2561 or civil action or proceeding under this chapter may be commenced
2562 at any time within five (5) years after the conduct in violation
2563 of a provision of this chapter terminates or the cause of action
2564 accrues. If a criminal prosecution or civil action or other
2565 proceeding is brought, or intervened in, to punish, prevent or
2566 restrain any violation of the provisions of this chapter, the
2567 running of the period of limitations prescribed by this section
2568 with respect to any cause of action arising under subsections (5)
2569 or (6) of this section which is based, in whole or in part, upon
2570 any matter complained of in any such prosecution, action or
2571 proceeding shall be suspended during the pendency of such
2572 prosecution, action or proceeding and for two (2) years following
2573 its termination.



2574 (9) The application of one (1) civil remedy under any
2575 provision of this chapter shall not preclude the application of
2576 any other remedy, civil or criminal, under this chapter or any
2577 other provision of law. Civil remedies under this chapter are
2578 supplemental.

2579 **SECTION 28.** Section 99-3-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2580 amended as follows:

2581 99-3-2. Any United States Marshal or Deputy United States
2582 Marshal is authorized in the performance of his duties to bear
2583 arms, to make arrests and to make searches and seizures in
2584 compliance with Section 1 of this act. Whenever any other federal
2585 law enforcement officer who is employed by the United States
2586 government, authorized to effect an arrest for a violation of the
2587 United States Code, and authorized to carry a firearm in the
2588 performance of his duties is working in cooperation with local law
2589 enforcement officers, the agent shall have the authority in the
2590 performance of his duties to bear arms, to make arrests and to
2591 make searches and seizures. Any right granted under this section
2592 in no way relieves the requirements of appropriate affidavit and
2593 search warrant from the appropriate jurisdiction and authority
2594 pursuant to the laws of this state.

2595 **SECTION 29.** Section 99-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2596 amended as follows:

2597 99-15-11. Any conservator of the peace, on the affidavit of
2598 a credible person, may issue a search warrant and cause stolen or



embezzled goods to be seized; but the affidavit and warrant must specify the goods to be seized and the person or place to be searched and be in compliance with the requirements of Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 30. Section 99-27-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-27-15. Upon the affidavit of any credible person that he or she has reason to believe and does believe: (1) that intoxicating liquor is being stored, kept, owned, controlled, or possessed, in violation of the laws of the state, at any designated place or within any designated receptacle, which place is to be stated in the affidavit; or (2) that intoxicating liquor is being sold or offered for sale contrary to law at any designated place; or (3) that liquor is being manufactured or distilled, or attempted to be manufactured or distilled at any designated place, in violation of the laws of the state; or (4) that intoxicating liquor is being transported, attempted to be transported within the state at or over or through any designated place, contrary to the laws of the state, it shall be the duty of any justice of the peace of the county or county judge, or the judge of the circuit court of the district or the chancellor of the district in which the place is situated, to issue a search warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, directed to the sheriff or any constable of the county, or if in a municipality, to the sheriff or any constable or marshal or policeman therein,



2624 commanding him or her to proceed in the day or nighttime, to enter
2625 by breaking if necessary, and to diligently search any building,
2626 room in a building, outhouses, place, wagon, cart, buggy,
2627 automobile, motorcycle, motor truck, water or air craft or other
2628 vehicle, as may be designated in the affidavit, and to seize said
2629 intoxicating liquor, and any wagon, buggy, cart, automobile,
2630 motorcycle, motor truck, water or air craft or other vehicle used
2631 or attempted to be used in the transporting of the same, or any
2632 still or distillery or integral part of the same including
2633 appliances, vessels and equipment pertaining thereto used in
2634 making or manufacturing or attempting to make or manufacture said
2635 intoxicating liquor, and to hold the same until disposed of by
2636 law, and to arrest the person, or persons in possession and
2637 control of the same.

2638 The writ shall be returnable instanter or on a day stated and
2639 a copy shall be served on the owner or person in possession if
2640 such person be present or readily found.

2641 **SECTION 31.** Section 99-27-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2642 amended as follows:

2643 99-27-21. It shall be the duty of any sheriff or constable
2644 of a county, or any sheriff, constable or marshal, or policeman in
2645 a municipality who has reason to believe and does believe that
2646 intoxicating liquor is being transported in violation of law, in
2647 any wagon, cart, buggy, automobile, motorcycle, motor truck, water
2648 or air craft, or any other vehicle, forthwith to make a reasonable



2649 search of such vehicle and to seize any intoxicating liquor so
2650 found being transported or being attempted to be transported in
2651 violation of law and at once to arrest the person or persons in
2652 possession or control thereof and transporting or attempting to
2653 transport same in violation of law; and such officer or officers
2654 proceeding in good faith shall not be liable either civilly or
2655 criminally for such a search and seizure without a warrant, so
2656 long as said search and seizure is conducted in a reasonable
2657 manner and in compliance with Section 1 of this act, it appearing
2658 that the officer or officers had reason to believe and did believe
2659 that the prohibition laws of the State of Mississippi were being
2660 violated at the time such search was instituted. And the officers
2661 making such search shall be a competent witness, or witnesses, to
2662 testify as to all facts ascertained, and discoveries made, by
2663 means of said reasonable search, and all liquor, and all
2664 appliances for its manufacture or transportation, so seized shall
2665 be admitted in evidence. But this section shall not authorize the
2666 search of a residence or home or room or building or the premises
2667 belonging to or in the possession lawfully of the party suspected,
2668 without a search warrant.

2669 **SECTION 32.** Section 11-43-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2670 amended as follows:

2671 11-43-25. Whenever the judge or chancellor, on issuing a
2672 writ of habeas corpus, shall be satisfied, by affidavit or
2673 otherwise, that the person unlawfully depriving another of his or



2674 her liberty has committed a crime in connection with such unlawful
2675 act, he or she may embody in the writ a warrant for the arrest of
2676 such person and have him or her brought up for examination at the
2677 hearing of the habeas corpus in compliance with Section 1 of this
2678 act; and being satisfied, on the trial and examination, of the
2679 guilt of such person, the judge or chancellor shall commit him or
2680 her, or order his or her release on bail, to appear before the
2681 proper court to answer the charge.

2682 **SECTION 33.** Section 19-25-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2683 amended as follows:

2684 19-25-11. In the event there is outstanding a warrant for
2685 the arrest of the sheriff of the county issued by any justice of
2686 the peace, mayor, or any police justice in said county whereby the
2687 said sheriff has been charged by affidavit duly made before said
2688 justice of the peace, mayor, or police justice in said county for
2689 any misdemeanor or felony, any constable of the county, or any
2690 marshal or police officer of any municipality located in said
2691 county, may execute said warrant and arrest the said sheriff in
2692 compliance with Section 1 of this act. In his or her failure to
2693 make bond in the amount as fixed by the justice of the peace,
2694 mayor or police justice where said affidavit was made, the officer
2695 making the arrest may confine said sheriff in a county jail
2696 adjoining the county of his or her residence, or in any other
2697 county jail in the state, and on the date of trial shall deliver
2698 him or her up to the court for trial. Said officer making the



2699 arrest shall be the jailer of said county during the confinement
2700 of the said sheriff in jail and/or while his or her cause on said
2701 criminal charge is pending for trial, provided the sheriff was
2702 jailer and living in the jail at the time of his or her arrest.

2703 **SECTION 34.** Section 23-15-941, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2704 amended as follows:

2705 23-15-941. If upon the hearing of a primary election contest
2706 or complaint, under Section 23-15-931, it shall distinctly appear
2707 to the trial judge that any person, including a candidate or
2708 election officer, has willfully and corruptly violated any primary
2709 election statute and such violation is by said statute made a
2710 criminal offense, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, it shall be
2711 the duty of the trial judge to issue immediately his warrant for
2712 the arrest of the guilty party in compliance with Section 1 of
2713 this act, reciting in his order therefor, in brief, the grounds or
2714 causes for the arrest. Such warrant and a certified copy of the
2715 order shall be forthwith placed in the hands of the sheriff of the
2716 county wherein the offense occurred, and the sheriff shall at
2717 once, upon receipt of the warrant, arrest the party and commit him
2718 to prison, unless and until the party give bond in the sum of Five
2719 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) with two (2) or more good and sufficient
2720 sureties conditioned for his appearance at the next term of the
2721 circuit court and from term to term until discharged by law. When
2722 the arrest has been made and the bond, if any, given, the sheriff
2723 shall deliver all the papers therein with his return thereon to



the circuit clerk who shall file, and thereafter personally deliver, the same to the foreman of the next grand jury.

SECTION 35. Section 27-7-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-7-79. (1) The commissioner shall have exclusive jurisdiction and be charged with the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this article, except as otherwise provided.

(2) The commissioner, for the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of any return, or for the purpose of making a return where none has been made, is hereby authorized, by any agent designated by the commissioner for that purpose, to examine any books, papers, records or memoranda, bearing upon the matter required to be included in the return, and may require the attendance of persons rendering a return or of any officer or employee of such person, or of any person having knowledge in the premises, and may take his testimony with reference to the matter required by law to be included in the return, with power to administer oaths to such person or persons.

(3) If any person summoned to appear under this article to testify, or produce books, papers or other data, shall refuse to do so, the chancery court for the district in which the person resides shall have jurisdiction by appropriate process to compel such attendance, testimony or production of books, papers or other data.



2749 (4) The commissioner, with the approval of the Governor, may
2750 appoint and remove such officers, agents, deputies, clerks and
2751 employees as he may deem necessary, such persons to have such
2752 duties and powers as the commissioner may, from time to time,
2753 prescribe. The salaries of all officers, agents and employees
2754 employed by the commissioner shall be such as he may prescribe,
2755 with the approval of the Governor, not to exceed such amounts as
2756 may be appropriated by the Legislature, and the members of the
2757 commission and such officers, agents and employees shall be
2758 allowed such reasonable and necessary traveling and other expenses
2759 as may be incurred in the performance of their duties, not to
2760 exceed the amount appropriated therefor by the Legislature.

2761 (5) The commissioner shall designate certain special agents
2762 appointed under this section and evidenced by a written
2763 certificate of appointment under the seal of the commission, of
2764 which judicial notice shall be taken by all courts of this state.
2765 Such agents, when in possession of a warrant issued under
2766 authority of this article, shall have all the powers and duties of
2767 the sheriff in enforcing the provisions of the article relating to
2768 the warrant thus issued, and in making arrests of persons
2769 obstructing or seeking to obstruct the execution of the warrant in
2770 compliance with Section 1 of this act, or in serving any writ,
2771 notice or order connected with the enrolled judgment for which the
2772 warrant is issued by whatever officer or authority of court
2773 issued.



2774 (6) The commissioner may require such of the officers,
2775 agents, and employees, as he may designate, to give bond for the
2776 faithful performance of their duties, in such form and with such
2777 securities as he may determine, and all premiums on such bonds
2778 shall be paid by the commissioner out of the monies appropriated
2779 for the purposes of this article.

2780 (7) All officers empowered by law to administer oaths and
2781 the members of the commission, and such officers as it may
2782 designate, shall have power to administer an oath to any person or
2783 to take the acknowledgment of any person in respect to any return
2784 or report required by this article or the rules and regulations of
2785 the commissioner.

2786 (8) All agents of the commissioner shall have, for
2787 identification purposes, proper credentials signed by the chairman
2788 of the commission.

2789 (9) The commissioner shall prepare and publish annually
2790 statistics reasonably available with respect to the operation of
2791 this law, including classification of taxpayers and of the income,
2792 the amounts allowed as deductions, exemptions and credits, and
2793 also a statement of the cost of administering this article and any
2794 other facts deemed pertinent and valuable.

2795 **SECTION 36.** Section 27-13-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2796 amended as follows:

2797 27-13-65. (1) **Jurisdiction.** The commissioner shall have
2798 exclusive jurisdiction and be charged with the administration and



2799 enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise
2800 provided.

2801 (2) **Examine books.** The commissioner, for the purpose of
2802 ascertaining the correctness of any return, or for the purpose of
2803 making a return where none has been made, is hereby authorized, by
2804 any agent designated by the commissioner, for that purpose, to
2805 examine any books, papers, records or memoranda, bearing upon the
2806 matter required to be included in the return, and may require the
2807 attendance of persons rendering a return or of any officer or
2808 employee of such person, or of any person having knowledge in the
2809 premises, and may take his testimony with reference to the matter
2810 required by law to be included in such return, with power to
2811 administer oaths to such person or persons.

2812 (3) **Summons.** If any person summoned to appear under this
2813 chapter to testify, or produce books, papers or other data, shall
2814 refuse to do so, the chancery court for the district in which such
2815 person resides shall have jurisdiction by appropriate process to
2816 compel attendance, testimony or production of books, papers or
2817 other data.

2818 (4) **Employees.** The commissioner, with the approval of the
2819 Governor, may appoint and remove such officers, agents, deputies,
2820 clerks and employees as he may deem necessary, such persons to
2821 have such duties and powers as the commissioner may, from time to
2822 time, prescribe. The salaries of all officers, agents and
2823 employees employed by the commissioner shall be such as he may



2824 prescribe, with the approval of the Governor, not to exceed such
2825 amounts as may be appropriated by the Legislature, and the members
2826 of the commission and such officers, agents and employees shall be
2827 allowed such reasonable and necessary traveling and other expenses
2828 as may be incurred in the performance of their duties not to
2829 exceed the amount appropriated therefor by the Legislature.

2830 (5) **Special agents.** The commissioner shall designate
2831 certain special agents appointed under this section and evidenced
2832 by a written certificate of appointment under the seal of the
2833 commission, of which judicial notice shall be taken by all courts
2834 of this state. Such agents, when in possession of a warrant
2835 issued under authority of this chapter and in compliance with
2836 Section 1 of this act, shall have all the powers and duties of the
2837 sheriff in enforcing the provisions of the chapter relating to the
2838 warrant thus issued, and in making arrests of persons obstructing
2839 or seeking to obstruct the execution of such warrant, or in
2840 serving any writ, notice or order connected with the enrolled
2841 judgment for which the warrant is issued by whatever officer or
2842 authority of court issued.

2843 (6) **Employees bond.** The commissioner may require such of
2844 the officers, agents and employees, as he may designate, to give
2845 bond for the faithful performance of their duties, in such form
2846 and with such securities as he may determine, and all premiums on
2847 such bonds shall be paid by the commissioner out of the monies
2848 appropriated for the purposes of this chapter.



2849 (7) **Administer oath.** All officers empowered by law to
2850 administer oaths and the members of the commission, and such
2851 officers as it may designate, shall have power to administer an
2852 oath to any person or to take the acknowledgment of any person in
2853 respect to any return or report required by this chapter or the
2854 rules and regulations of the commissioner.

2855 (8) **Credentials.** All agents of the commissioner shall have,
2856 for identification purposes, proper credentials signed by the
2857 chairman of the commission.

2858 (9) **Statistics.** The commissioner shall prepare and publish
2859 annually statistics reasonably available with respect to the
2860 operation of this law, as he may deem pertinent and valuable.

2861 **SECTION 37.** Section 27-19-133, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2862 amended as follows:

2863 27-19-133. Any sheriff, deputy sheriff or municipal law
2864 enforcement officer is hereby authorized to arrest, without
2865 warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, any person
2866 operating, or causing to be operated, any motor vehicle contrary
2867 to the provisions of this article, within the limits of their
2868 respective jurisdiction. In case the owner, or person or persons
2869 operating, or causing to be operated, a motor vehicle shall be
2870 taken into custody because of a violation of any provision hereof,
2871 he or they may be forthwith taken before an accessible justice
2872 court judge, police justice, municipal judge or mayor, having
2873 jurisdiction of such offense, and be entitled to an immediate



2874 hearing. If such hearing cannot then be had, he shall be released
2875 from custody upon giving a good and sufficient bond to appear and
2876 answer for such violation, at such time and place as shall then be
2877 designated, in the manner provided by law, or secured by a sum
2878 equal to the maximum fine for the offense with which he is
2879 charged, or, in lieu thereof, by leaving the motor vehicle being
2880 operated by such person with such officer as may have the accused
2881 in charge. Provided, however, that should the person or persons
2882 in custody so request, the justice court judge, police justice,
2883 municipal judge or mayor before whom the complaint is made, or
2884 before whom the person or persons in custody shall be taken, shall
2885 adjourn the hearing of said case for ten (10) days upon the
2886 execution of a good and sufficient bond, in the manner as above
2887 provided, and, if the defendant or defendants fail to appear to
2888 defend said case, the sum or sums so deposited, or bond so given,
2889 shall be forfeited to the state and disposed of as bond given and
2890 money deposited for bail in other cases, or the motor vehicle
2891 which may have been left by said person or persons may be sold at
2892 public auction by order of the justice court judge, police
2893 justice, municipal judge or mayor, after giving notice of said
2894 proposed sale for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of
2895 general circulation in the county where the arrest is made, if
2896 there be such newspaper in said county, describing accurately the
2897 motor vehicle therein and giving the date of the proposed sale.
2898 From the amount realized from such sale a sum equal to the maximum



2899 fine for the offense charged shall be disposed of in like manner;
2900 and the surplus, if any, after deducting all expenses incurred in
2901 keeping or sale of such vehicle, shall be returned to such owner
2902 on demand, but no such forfeiture and disposition of such security
2903 shall in anywise impair the jurisdiction of the justice court
2904 judge, police justice, municipal judge or mayor, to hear and
2905 determine any such charge made against the owner of such motor
2906 vehicle, or the person or persons operating, or causing to be
2907 operated, the said vehicle, or to inflict, upon conviction, any
2908 punishment prescribed by this article. If there be no such
2909 newspaper published in said county, then such sale shall be
2910 advertised by posting written notice in two (2) or more public
2911 places in said county for three (3) consecutive weeks next
2912 preceding such sale.

2913 Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, municipal law enforcement
2914 officer or other peace officer, who shall arrest or prefer charges
2915 against any person alleged to have operated a motor vehicle in
2916 violation of the provisions of this article shall, within five (5)
2917 days after the termination of such proceedings, forward to the
2918 commission a transcript of the court proceedings on such charges,
2919 which transcript shall show the name of the defendant, the date of
2920 the offense, the nature of the offense, the court in which the
2921 proceedings were had, the disposition of the matter and the
2922 sentence, if any, imposed by the court. Any sheriff, deputy
2923 sheriff, municipal law enforcement officer or other peace officer,



who shall fail or refuse to forward such transcript as required hereby, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. In addition thereto, any sheriff, deputy sheriff, municipal law enforcement officer or other peace officer who shall fail or refuse to forward such transcript to the commission shall be liable on his official bond for a civil penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), which may be recovered upon appropriate proceedings brought by the commission in chancery court of the proper county.

SECTION 38. Section 27-19-135, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-19-135. All taxes, costs and penalties imposed by this article shall constitute a first lien on all motor vehicles operated in violation of the provisions hereof, which lien shall be paramount to any and all private liens, and any such motor vehicle shall be subject to being seized and impounded to enforce collection thereof. Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or representative or employee of the * * * Department of Revenue or Mississippi Department of Transportation shall be authorized to arrest, without warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, any person operating or driving any motor vehicle contrary to the provisions of this article, within the limits of their respective



jurisdictions, and/or to seize and impound any motor vehicle being operated in violation of the provisions hereof. In case of such arrest or seizure, such arresting or impounding officer shall immediately go into some court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the lien thereon.

SECTION 39. Section 27-19-136, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-19-136. (1) In addition to any other remedy provided in this article, the Commissioner of Revenue or his designated officers or agents, or the Executive Director of the Department of Transportation or his designated officers or agents are authorized to assess taxes and/or fines and penalties as provided by this article, notice of which assessment shall be delivered to the owner or operator or his agent at the time of assessment, by mail or personal delivery, to be collected as hereinafter provided in this section.

(2) In lieu of seizure and impoundment of vehicles as provided by Section 27-19-135, the Commissioner of Revenue or Executive Director of the Department of Transportation may, in their discretion, authorize any owner or operator of a motor vehicle found to be operated in violation of the provisions of this article to execute and file with the Department of Revenue or Executive Director of the Department of Transportation a good and valid bond written by a surety company authorized to do business in this state in an amount equal to the taxes and/or fines and



2974 penalties assessed because of such violation conditioned upon the
2975 prompt payment when due of all such taxes and/or fines and
2976 penalties. If the Commissioner of Revenue or Executive Director
2977 of the Department of Transportation is satisfied that such owner
2978 or operator has property located in this state of value in excess
2979 of the amount of said taxes and/or fines and penalties, it may
2980 waive the bond requirement.

2981 (3) If the Commissioner of Revenue or Executive Director of
2982 the Department of Transportation shall elect to assess taxes
2983 and/or fines and penalties imposed by this article under
2984 provisions of this section, it may authorize such terms for
2985 payment as shall be deemed appropriate over a period of time not
2986 to exceed six (6) months. Notice of such terms shall be given to
2987 the owner or operator by mail or personal delivery.

2988 (4) If the person thus assessed or liable for the payment of
2989 taxes and/or fines and penalties imposed by this article shall
2990 fail or refuse to make payment when due, the Commissioner of
2991 Revenue or Executive Director of the Department of Transportation
2992 may file notice of tax liens and issue warrants in the same manner
2993 and with the same effect as liens and warrants are issued and
2994 executed upon under the provisions of Sections 27-65-57 through
2995 27-65-69.

2996 (5) The authority granted to special agents in Section
2997 27-65-91 shall also apply with the same force and effect in the
2998 execution of warrants and orders issued under the provisions of



2999 this article and in compliance with Section 1 of this act and in
3000 making arrests of persons obstructing or seeking to obstruct the
3001 execution of such warrants or in serving any writ, notice or order
3002 connected with the enrolled judgment for which the warrant is
3003 issued under the provisions of this article.

3004 (6) The Executive Director of the Department of
3005 Transportation shall designate certain officers or agents by
3006 written certificate of appointment under seal of the Department of
3007 Transportation, of which judicial notice shall be taken by all
3008 courts of this state. Such officers or agents, when in possession
3009 of a warrant issued under authority of this article, shall have
3010 all the powers and duties of the sheriff in the enforcement and
3011 execution of warrants and orders issued under the provisions of
3012 this article and in compliance with Section 1 of this act and in
3013 making arrests of persons obstructing or seeking to obstruct the
3014 execution of such warrants, or in serving any writ, notice or
3015 order connected with the enrolled judgment for which the warrant
3016 is issued under the provisions of this article.

3017 (7) All administrative provisions of the Mississippi Sales
3018 Tax Law, including those which fix damages, penalties and interest
3019 for nonpayment of taxes, and for other noncompliance with the
3020 provisions of said chapter, and all other requirements and duties
3021 imposed upon taxpayers, shall apply to all persons liable for
3022 taxes under the provisions of this article, and the department
3023 shall exercise all power and authority and perform all the duties



with respect to taxpayers under this article as are provided in said Sales Tax Law, except that in cases of conflict, then the provisions of this article shall control.

SECTION 40. Section 27-65-91, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-65-91. The commissioner shall designate certain special agents appointed hereunder and evidenced by a written certificate of appointment under the seal of the * * * Department of Revenue, of which judicial notice shall be taken by all courts of this state. Such agents, when in possession of a warrant issued under authority of this chapter and in compliance with Section 1 of this act, shall have all the powers and duties of the sheriff in enforcing the provisions of the chapter relating to the warrant thus issued, and in making arrests of persons obstructing or seeking to obstruct the execution of such warrant, or in serving any writ, notice or order connected with the enrolled judgment for which the warrant is issued by whatever officer or authority of court issued.

SECTION 41. Section 33-13-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

33-13-21. (1) Arrest is the restraint of a person by an order, not imposed as a punishment for an offense, directing him to remain within specified limits. Confinement is the physical restraint of a person.



3048 (2) An enlisted member may be ordered into arrest or
3049 confinement by any commissioned officer by an order, oral or
3050 written, delivered in person or through other persons subject to
3051 this code or through any person authorized by this code to
3052 apprehend persons. A commanding officer may authorize warrant
3053 officers, or noncommissioned officers to order enlisted members of
3054 his company or subject to his authority into arrest or
3055 confinement.

3056 (3) A commissioned officer or warrant officer may be ordered
3057 into arrest or confinement only by a commanding officer to whose
3058 authority he is subject, by an order, oral or written, delivered
3059 in person or by another commissioned officer. The authority to
3060 order such persons into arrest or confinement may not be
3061 delegated.

3062 (4) No person may be ordered into arrest or confinement
3063 except for probable cause.

3064 (5) This section does not limit the authority of persons
3065 authorized to apprehend offenders to secure the custody of an
3066 alleged offender until a proper authority may be notified.

3067 (6) All arrests shall be executed in compliance with Section
3068 1 of this act.

3069 **SECTION 42.** Section 33-13-321, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3070 amended as follows:

3071 33-13-321. (1) The trial counsel, the defense counsel, the
3072 accused, if not represented by counsel, and the court-martial



shall have equal opportunity to obtain witnesses and other evidence. Each shall have the right of compulsory process for obtaining witnesses.

(2) The military judge or summary court officer of a court-martial may:

(a) Issue a warrant for the arrest of any accused person in compliance with Section 1 of this act who having been served with a warrant and a copy of the charges, disobeys a written order by the convening authority to appear before the court;

(b) Issue a subpoena duces tecum and other subpoenas;

(c) Enforce by attachment the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers; and

(d) Sentence for refusal to be sworn or to answer, as provided in actions before civil courts of the state.

(3) Process issued in court-martial cases to compel witnesses to appear and testify and to compel the production of other evidence shall run to any part of the state and shall be executed by civil officers or peace officers as prescribed by the laws of the state.

SECTION 43. Section 33-13-615, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

33-13-615. (1) Military courts may issue any process or mandate necessary to carry into effect their powers. Such a court may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum and enforce by



3098 attachment attendance of witnesses and production of books and
3099 records, when it is sitting within the state and the witnesses,
3100 books and records sought are also so located.

3101 (2) Process and mandates may be issued by summary
3102 courts-martial, provost courts, military judges, or the president
3103 of other military courts and may be directed to and may be
3104 executed by the marshals of the military court or any peace
3105 officer and shall be in such form as may be prescribed by
3106 regulations issued under this code.

3107 (3) All officers to whom process or mandates may be directed
3108 shall execute them and make return of their acts thereunder
3109 according to the requirements of those documents. Except as
3110 otherwise specifically provided in this code, no such officer may
3111 demand or require payment of any fee or charge for receiving,
3112 executing, or returning such a process or mandate or for any
3113 service in connection therewith.

3114 (4) The president of any court-martial, any military judge
3115 and any summary court officer, shall have authority to issue,
3116 under his hand, in the name of the State of Mississippi, directed
3117 to any sheriff or constable, whose duty it shall be to serve or
3118 execute the same in the same manner in which like process is
3119 served or executed when issued by a magistrate, all necessary
3120 process, subpoenas, attachments, warrants of arrest in compliance
3121 with Section 1 of this act, and warrants of commitment.



3122 **SECTION 44.** Section 33-13-623, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3123 amended as follows:

3124 33-13-623. (1) When charges against any person in the
3125 military service of this state are made or referred to a convening
3126 authority authorized to convene a court-martial for the trial of
3127 such person, and a convening authority, believing that such
3128 charges can be sustained, and has reason to believe that the
3129 person so charged will not appear for trial, or intends to flee
3130 from justice, a convening authority may issue a warrant of arrest
3131 to the sheriff or any constable of the county in which the person
3132 charged resides, or wherein he is supposed to be, commanding the
3133 sheriff or constable to take the body of the person so charged and
3134 confine him in jail until such time as his case may be finally
3135 disposed of; and the sheriff or constable, on the order of the
3136 convening authority, shall bring the person so charged before the
3137 court-martial for trial, or turn him over to whomever the order
3138 may direct, the convening authority issuing the warrant of arrest,
3139 shall endorse thereon the amount of bail to be required; and it
3140 shall be a violation of duty on the part of any sheriff or
3141 constable to permit a person so committed to remain out of jail,
3142 except that he may, when such person desires it, permit him to
3143 give bail in the sum endorsed on the warrant, conditioned for his
3144 appearance, from time to time, before such court-martial as he may
3145 be ordered for trial, and until his case is finally disposed of,
3146 or until such time as he may surrender to the sheriff or constable



3147 as directed by the convening authority of the court-martial before
3148 which he may be ordered for trial.

3149 (2) Upon the failure of any person, who has been admitted to
3150 bail conditioned for his appearance for trial before a
3151 court-martial, or upon failure of any person admitted to bail to
3152 appear as a witness in any case before a court-martial, as
3153 conditioned in the bail bond of any such person, the court-martial
3154 shall certify the fact of such failure to so appear to the
3155 convening authority or to the officer commanding for the time
3156 being, as the case may be; and such officer shall cause a judge
3157 advocate, district or county attorney to file suit therefor.

3158 (3) The rules laid down in the criminal procedural statutes
3159 of this state relating to the giving of bail, the amount of bail,
3160 the number of sureties, the persons who may be sureties, the
3161 property exempt from liability, the responsibility of parties to
3162 the same and all other rules of a general nature not inconsistent
3163 with this law are applicable to bail taken as provided in this
3164 code.

3165 (4) A warrant of arrest issued by a convening authority to
3166 order a court-martial, and all subpoenas and other process issued
3167 by courts-martial and courts of inquiry shall extend to every part
3168 of the state and shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of
3169 this act.

3170 (5) When any lawful process, issued by the proper officer of
3171 any court-martial, comes to the hands of any sheriff or constable,



3172 he shall perform the usual duties of such officer and perform all
3173 acts and duties by this code imposed or authorized to be performed
3174 by any sheriff or constable. Failure of any sheriff or constable
3175 to perform the duties required by this code shall be misdemeanor
3176 offenses punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand
3177 Dollars (\$1,000.00) and by confinement of not less than six (6)
3178 months and not more than twelve (12) months in jail.

3179 **SECTION 45.** Section 33-15-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3180 amended as follows:

3181 33-15-41. Any emergency management auxiliary policeman who
3182 has had conferred upon him the power of a peace officer, as
3183 provided in Section 33-15-39 and when in full and distinctive
3184 uniform or displaying a badge or other insignia of authority, may
3185 arrest without a warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act
3186 any person violating or attempting to violate in such officer's
3187 presence any order, rule * * * or regulation made pursuant to this
3188 article. This authority shall be limited to those rules and
3189 regulations which affect the public generally.

3190 **SECTION 46.** Section 41-21-93, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3191 amended as follows:

3192 41-21-93. If any such patient admitted or committed by a
3193 court to a treatment facility leaves without authorization, the
3194 director may immediately issue a warrant in compliance with
3195 Section 1 of this act to any officer authorized to make arrests,



commanding the arrest and return of said patient to the hospital from which he is departed.

SECTION 47. Section 43-21-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

43-21-301. (1) No court other than the youth court shall issue an arrest warrant or custody order for a child in a matter in which the youth court has exclusive original jurisdiction but shall refer the matter to the youth court. Any arrest warrant shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(2) Except as otherwise provided, no child in a matter in which the youth court has exclusive original jurisdiction shall be taken into custody by a law enforcement officer, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Child Protection Services, or any other person unless the judge or his designee has issued a custody order to take the child into custody.

(3) The judge or his designee may require a law enforcement officer, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Child Protection Services, or any suitable person to take a child into custody for a period not longer than forty-eight (48) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and statutory state holidays.

(a) Custody orders under this subsection may be issued if it appears that there is probable cause to believe that:

(i) The child is within the jurisdiction of the court;



3220 (ii) Custody is necessary because of any of the
3221 following reasons: the child is in danger of a significant risk
3222 of harm, any person would be in danger of a significant risk of
3223 harm by the child, to ensure the child's attendance in court at
3224 such time as required, or a parent, guardian or custodian is not
3225 available to provide for the care and supervision of the child;
3226 and

3227 (iii) There is no reasonable alternative to
3228 custody.

3229 A finding of probable cause under this subsection (3)(a)
3230 shall not be based solely upon a positive drug test of a newborn
3231 or parent for marijuana or solely upon the status of a parent as a
3232 cardholder under the Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act; however, a
3233 finding of probable cause may be based upon an evidence-based
3234 finding of harm to the child or a parent's inability to provide
3235 for the care and supervision of the child due to the parent's use
3236 of marijuana. Probable cause for unlawful use of any controlled
3237 substance, except as otherwise provided in this subsection (3)(a)
3238 for marijuana, may be based: 1. upon a parent's positive drug
3239 test for unlawful use of a controlled substance only if the child
3240 is in danger of a significant risk of harm or the parent is unable
3241 to provide proper care or supervision of the child because of the
3242 unlawful use and there is no reasonable alternative to custody;
3243 and 2. upon a newborn's positive drug screen for a controlled
3244 substance that was used unlawfully only if the child is in danger



of a significant risk of harm or the parent is unable to provide proper care or supervision of the child because of the unlawful use and there is no reasonable alternative to custody.

A child shall not be considered "neglected" solely because the child's parent, guardian or custodian has failed to provide the child with food, clothing, or shelter necessary to sustain the life or health of the child when the failure is caused primarily by financial inability, unless relief services had been offered and refused and the child is in imminent risk of harm.

(b) Custody orders under this subsection shall be written. In emergency cases, a judge or his designee may issue an oral custody order, but the order shall be reduced to writing within forty-eight (48) hours of its issuance.

(c) Each youth court judge shall develop and make available to law enforcement a list of designees who are available after hours, on weekends and on holidays.

(4) The judge or his designee may order, orally or in writing, the immediate release of any child in the custody of any person or agency. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, custody orders as provided by this chapter and authorizations of temporary custody may be written or oral, but, if oral, reduced to writing within forty-eight (48) hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory state holidays. The written order shall:



3269 (a) Specify the name and address of the child, or, if
3270 unknown, designate him or her by any name or description by which
3271 he or she can be identified with reasonable certainty;

3272 (b) Specify the age of the child, or, if unknown, that
3273 he or she is believed to be of an age subject to the jurisdiction
3274 of the youth court;

3275 (c) Except in cases where the child is alleged to be a
3276 delinquent child or a child in need of supervision, state that the
3277 effect of the continuation of the child's residing within his or
3278 her own home would be contrary to the welfare of the child, that
3279 the placement of the child in foster care is in the best interests
3280 of the child, and unless the reasonable efforts requirement is
3281 bypassed under Section 43-21-603(7)(c), also state that (i)
3282 reasonable efforts have been made to maintain the child within his
3283 or her own home, but that the circumstances warrant his removal
3284 and there is no reasonable alternative to custody; or (ii) the
3285 circumstances are of such an emergency nature that no reasonable
3286 efforts have been made to maintain the child within his own home,
3287 and that there is no reasonable alternative to custody. If the
3288 court makes a finding in accordance with (ii) of this paragraph,
3289 the court shall order that reasonable efforts be made toward the
3290 reunification of the child with his or her family;

3291 (d) State that the child shall be brought immediately
3292 before the youth court or be taken to a place designated by the
3293 order to be held pending review of the order;



3294 (e) State the date issued and the youth court by which
3295 the order is issued; and

3296 (f) Be signed by the judge or his designee with the
3297 title of his office.

3298 (5) The taking of a child into custody shall not be
3299 considered an arrest except for evidentiary purposes.

3300 (6) (a) No child who has been accused or adjudicated of any
3301 offense that would not be a crime if committed by an adult shall
3302 be placed in an adult jail or lockup. An accused status offender
3303 shall not be held in secure detention longer than twenty-four (24)
3304 hours prior to and twenty-four (24) hours after an initial court
3305 appearance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and statutory state
3306 holidays, except under the following circumstances: a status
3307 offender may be held in secure detention for violating a valid
3308 court order pursuant to the criteria as established by the federal
3309 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002, and any
3310 subsequent amendments thereto, and out-of-state runaways may be
3311 detained pending return to their home state.

3312 (b) No accused or adjudicated juvenile offender, except
3313 for an accused or adjudicated juvenile offender in cases where
3314 jurisdiction is waived to the adult criminal court, shall be
3315 detained or placed into custody of any adult jail or lockup for a
3316 period in excess of six (6) hours.

3317 (c) If any county violates the provisions of paragraph
3318 (a) or (b) of this subsection, the state agency authorized to



3319 allocate federal funds received pursuant to the Juvenile Justice
3320 and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, 88 Stat. 2750 (codified in
3321 scattered Sections of 5, 18, 42 USCS), shall withhold the county's
3322 share of such funds.

3323 (d) Any county that does not have a facility in which
3324 to detain its juvenile offenders in compliance with the provisions
3325 of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection may enter into a
3326 contractual agreement to detain or place into custody the juvenile
3327 offenders of that county with any county or municipality that does
3328 have such a facility, or with the State of Mississippi, or with
3329 any private entity that maintains a juvenile correctional
3330 facility.

3331 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a),
3332 (b), (c) and (d) of this subsection, all counties shall be allowed
3333 a one-year grace period from March 27, 1993, to comply with the
3334 provisions of this subsection.

3335 **SECTION 48.** Section 45-3-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3336 amended as follows:

3337 45-3-21. (1) The powers and duties of the Highway Safety
3338 Patrol shall be, in addition to all others prescribed by law, as
3339 follows:

3340 (a) To enforce all of the traffic laws, rules and
3341 regulations of the State of Mississippi upon all highways of the
3342 state highway system and the rights-of-way of such highways;
3343 provided, however, that if any person commits an offense upon the



3344 state highway system and be pursued by a member of the Highway
3345 Safety Patrol, such patrol officer may pursue and apprehend such
3346 offender upon any of the highways or public roads of this state,
3347 or to any other place to which such offender may flee.

3348 (b) To enforce all rules and regulations of the
3349 commissioner promulgated pursuant to legal authority.

3350 (c) When so directed by the Governor, to enforce any of
3351 the laws of this state upon any of the highways or public roads
3352 thereof.

3353 (d) Upon the request of the Department of Revenue, and
3354 with the approval of the Governor, to enforce all of the
3355 provisions of law with reference to the registration, license and
3356 taxation of vehicles using the highways of this state, and
3357 relative to the sizes, weights and load limits of such vehicles,
3358 and to enforce the provisions of all other laws administered by
3359 the Department of Revenue upon any of the highways or public roads
3360 of this state; and for such purpose the Highway Safety Patrol
3361 shall have the authority to collect and receive all taxes which
3362 may be due under any of such laws, and to report and remit same to
3363 the Department of Revenue in the manner required by law, or the
3364 rules and regulations of the Department of Revenue.

3365 (e) Upon request of the Commercial Transportation
3366 Enforcement Division within the Department of Public Safety, and
3367 when so instructed by the commissioner, to enforce the Mississippi



3368 Motor Carrier Regulatory Law of 1938 and rules and regulations
3369 promulgated thereunder.

3370 (f) To arrest without warrant in compliance with
3371 Section 1 of this act any person or persons committing or
3372 attempting to commit any misdemeanor, felony or breach of the
3373 peace within their presence or view, and to pursue and so arrest
3374 any person committing such an offense to and at any place in the
3375 State of Mississippi where he may go or be. Nothing herein shall
3376 be construed as granting the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
3377 general police powers.

3378 (g) To aid and assist any law enforcement officer whose
3379 life or safety is in jeopardy. Additionally, officers of the
3380 Highway Safety Patrol may arrest without warrant in compliance
3381 with Section 1 of this act any fugitive from justice who has
3382 escaped or who is using the highways of the state in an attempt to
3383 flee. With the approval of the commissioner or his designee,
3384 officers of the Highway Safety Patrol may assist other law
3385 enforcement agencies in manhunts for convicted felons who have
3386 escaped and/or for alleged felons where there is probable cause to
3387 believe that the person being sought committed the felony and a
3388 felony had actually been committed.

3389 (h) To cooperate with the State Forest Service by
3390 reporting all forest fires.

3391 (i) Upon request of the sheriff or his designee, or
3392 board of supervisors of any county or the chief of police or mayor



3393 of any municipality, and when so instructed by the commissioner or
3394 his designee, to respond to calls for assistance in a law
3395 enforcement incident; such request and action shall be noted and
3396 clearly reflected on the radio logs of both the Mississippi
3397 Highway Safety Patrol district substation and that of the
3398 requesting agency, entered on the local NCIC terminal, if
3399 available, and a request in writing shall follow within
3400 forty-eight (48) hours. Additionally, the time of commencement
3401 and termination of the specific law enforcement incident shall be
3402 clearly noted on the radio logs of both law enforcement agencies.

3403 (2) The Legislature declares that the primary law
3404 enforcement officer in any county in the State of Mississippi is
3405 the duly qualified and elected sheriff thereof, but for the
3406 purposes of this subsection there is hereby vested in the
3407 Department of Public Safety, in addition to the powers hereinabove
3408 mentioned and the other provisions of this section under the terms
3409 and limitations hereinafter mentioned and for the purpose of
3410 insuring domestic tranquility and for the purpose of preventing or
3411 suppressing, or both, crimes of violence, acts and conduct
3412 calculated to, or which may, provoke or lead to violence and/or
3413 incite riots, mobs, mob violence, a breach of the peace, and acts
3414 of intimidation or terror, the powers and duties to include the
3415 enforcement of all the laws of the State of Mississippi relating
3416 to such purposes, to investigate any violation of the laws of the
3417 State of Mississippi and to aid in the arrest and prosecution of



3418 persons charged with violating the laws of the State of
3419 Mississippi which relate to such purposes. Investigators of the
3420 Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Public Safety shall
3421 have general police powers to enforce all the laws of the State of
3422 Mississippi. All officers of the Department of Public Safety
3423 charged with the enforcement of the laws administered by that
3424 agency, for the purposes herein set forth, shall have full power
3425 to investigate, prevent, apprehend and arrest law violators
3426 anywhere in the state, and shall be vested with the power of
3427 general police officers in the performance of their duties. The
3428 officers of the Department of Public Safety are authorized and
3429 empowered to carry and use firearms and other weapons deemed
3430 necessary in the discharge of their duties as such and are also
3431 empowered to serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the
3432 authority of the State of Mississippi. The Governor shall be
3433 authorized to offer and pay suitable rewards to persons aiding in
3434 the investigation, apprehension and conviction of persons charged
3435 with acts of violence, or threats of violence or intimidation or
3436 acts of terrorism. The additional powers herein granted to or
3437 vested in the Department of Public Safety or any of its officers
3438 or employees by this section, excepting investigating powers, and
3439 those powers of investigators who shall have general police power,
3440 being the investigators in the Bureau of Investigation of the
3441 Department of Public Safety, shall not be exercised by the
3442 Department of Public Safety, or any of its officers or employees,



3443 except upon authority and direction of the Governor or Acting
3444 Governor, by proclamation duly signed, in the following instances,
3445 to wit:

3446 (a) When requested by the sheriff or board of
3447 supervisors of any county or the mayor of any municipality on the
3448 grounds that mob violence, crimes of violence, acts and conduct of
3449 terrorism, riots or acts of intimidation, or either, calculated to
3450 or which may provoke violence or incite riots, mobs, mob violence,
3451 violence, or lead to any breach of the peace, or either, and acts
3452 of intimidation or terror are anticipated, and when such acts or
3453 conduct in the opinion of the Governor or Acting Governor would
3454 provoke violence or any of the foregoing acts or conduct set out
3455 in this subsection, and the sheriff or mayor, as the case may be,
3456 lacks adequate police force to prevent or suppress the same.

3457 (b) Acting upon evidence submitted to him by the
3458 Department of Public Safety, or other investigating agency
3459 authorized by the Governor or Acting Governor to make such
3460 investigations, because of the failure or refusal of the sheriff
3461 of any county or mayor of any municipality to take action or
3462 employ such means at his disposal, to prevent or suppress the
3463 acts, conduct or offenses provided for in subsection (1) of this
3464 section, the Governor or Acting Governor deems it necessary to
3465 invoke the powers and authority vested in the Department of Public
3466 Safety.



3467 (c) The Governor or Acting Governor is hereby
3468 authorized and empowered to issue his proclamation invoking the
3469 powers and authority vested by this paragraph, as provided in
3470 paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, and when the Governor
3471 or Acting Governor issues said proclamation in accordance
3472 herewith, said proclamation shall become effective upon the
3473 signing thereof and shall continue in full force and effect for a
3474 period of ninety (90) days, or for a shorter period if otherwise
3475 ordered by the Governor or Acting Governor. At the signing of the
3476 proclamation by the Governor or Acting Governor, the Department of
3477 Public Safety and its officers and employees shall thereupon be
3478 authorized to exercise the additional power and authority vested
3479 in them by this paragraph. The Governor and Acting Governor may
3480 issue additional proclamations for periods of ninety (90) days
3481 each under the authority of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this
3482 subsection (2).

3483 (3) All proclamations issued by the Governor or Acting
3484 Governor shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State on
3485 the next succeeding business day.

3486 (4) It is not the intention of this section to vest the wide
3487 powers and authority herein provided for, as general powers of the
3488 Department of Public Safety, and the same are not hereby so
3489 vested, but to limit these general powers to cases and incidents
3490 wherein it is deemed necessary to prevent or suppress the offenses
3491 and conditions herein mentioned in this and other subsections of



3492 this section, and under the terms and conditions hereinabove
3493 enumerated, it being the sense of the Legislature that the prime
3494 duties of the Department of Public Safety are to patrol the
3495 highways of this state and enforce the highway safety laws.

3496 (5) Patrol officers shall have no interest in any costs in
3497 the prosecution of any case through any court; nor shall any
3498 patrol officer receive any fee as a witness in any court held in
3499 this state, whether a state or federal court.

3500 (6) Provided, however, that the general police power vested
3501 by virtue of the terms of subsection (2) of this section is solely
3502 for the purposes set out in said subsection.

3503 **SECTION 49.** Section 45-27-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3504 amended as follows:

3505 45-27-9. (1) All criminal justice agencies within the state
3506 shall submit to the center an arrest card that will transmit
3507 fingerprints, descriptions, photographs (when specifically
3508 requested), and other identifying data on persons who have been
3509 lawfully arrested or taken into custody in this state for all
3510 felonies and misdemeanors as described in Section 45-27-7(2)(a).
3511 It shall be the duty of all chiefs of police, sheriffs, district
3512 attorneys, courts, court clerks, judges, parole and probation
3513 officers, wardens or other persons in charge of correctional
3514 institutions in this state to furnish the center with all data
3515 required by the rules duly promulgated under the Administrative
3516 Procedures Act to carry out its responsibilities under this



3517 chapter, and the duty of courts and court clerks to submit a
3518 disposition form for every disposition. It shall be the duty of
3519 all criminal justice agencies within the state to supply the
3520 prosecutor and the proper court with the disposition form that is
3521 attached to the physical arrest card if fingerprints were taken
3522 manually or, if fingerprints were captured digitally, the
3523 disposition form generated by the electronic fingerprint device at
3524 the time of the arrest. The PEER committee may conduct random
3525 review of the records of any agency or clerks referenced in this
3526 subsection (1) to determine whether the duties of such agencies
3527 and clerks are being fulfilled in a timely manner. The PEER
3528 committee, based on its findings, if any, shall recommend measures
3529 to ensure that the duties are more effectively carried out in a
3530 timely manner.

3531 (2) (a) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies
3532 shall obtain, or cause to be obtained, fingerprints according to
3533 the fingerprint system of identification established by the
3534 Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, full face and
3535 profile photographs (if equipment is available) and other
3536 available identifying data, of each person arrested or taken into
3537 custody for an offense of a type designated in subsection (1) of
3538 this section, of all persons arrested or taken into custody as
3539 fugitives from justice and of all unidentified human corpses in
3540 their jurisdictions, but photographs need not be taken if it is
3541 known that photographs of the type listed, taken within the



3542 previous year, are on file. Any record taken in connection with
3543 any person arrested or taken into custody and subsequently
3544 released without charge or cleared of the offense through court
3545 proceedings shall be purged from the files of the center and
3546 destroyed upon receipt by the center of a lawful expunction order.
3547 All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies shall submit to
3548 the center detailed descriptions of arrests or takings into
3549 custody which result in release without charge or subsequent
3550 exoneration from criminal liability within twenty-four (24) hours
3551 of the release or exoneration.

3552 (b) The center will work to secure grant funds to
3553 purchase live scan equipment to be utilized throughout the state.
3554 All law enforcement agencies shall utilize any live scan equipment
3555 provided by the center to ensure the most accurate collection of
3556 fingerprints. The center shall coordinate the use of the
3557 equipment with federal, state, county and municipal law
3558 enforcement agencies.

3559 (3) Fingerprints and other identifying data required to be
3560 taken under subsection (2) shall be forwarded within twenty-four
3561 (24) hours after taking for filing and classification, but the
3562 period of twenty-four (24) hours may be extended to cover any
3563 intervening holiday or weekend. Photographs taken shall be
3564 forwarded at the discretion of the agency concerned, but, if not
3565 forwarded, the fingerprint record shall be marked "Photo



3566 Available" and the photographs shall be forwarded subsequently if
3567 the center so requests.

3568 (4) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies shall
3569 submit to the center detailed descriptions of arrest warrants and
3570 related identifying data immediately upon determination of the
3571 fact that the warrant cannot be served for the reasons stated. If
3572 the warrant is subsequently served or withdrawn, the law
3573 enforcement agency concerned must immediately notify the center of
3574 the service or withdrawal. Also, the agency concerned must
3575 annually, no later than January 31 of each year and at other times
3576 if requested by the center, confirm all arrest warrants which
3577 continue to be outstanding. Upon receipt of a lawful expunction
3578 order, the center shall purge and destroy files of all data
3579 relating to an offense when an individual is subsequently
3580 exonerated from criminal liability of that offense. The center
3581 shall not be liable for the failure to purge, destroy or expunge
3582 any records if an agency or court fails to forward to the center
3583 proper documentation ordering the action.

3584 (5) All persons in charge of state correctional institutions
3585 shall obtain fingerprints, according to the fingerprint system of
3586 identification established by the Director of the Federal Bureau
3587 of Investigation or as otherwise directed by the center, and full
3588 face and profile photographs of all persons received on commitment
3589 to the institutions. The prints so taken shall be forwarded to
3590 the center, together with any other identifying data requested,



3591 within ten (10) days after the arrival at the institution of the
3592 person committed. At the time of release, the institution will
3593 again obtain fingerprints, as before, and forward them to the
3594 center within ten (10) days, along with any other related
3595 information requested by the center. The institution shall notify
3596 the center immediately upon the release of the person.

3597 (6) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies, all
3598 court clerks, all municipal justices where they have no clerks,
3599 all justice court judges and all persons in charge of state and
3600 county probation and parole offices, shall supply the center with
3601 the information described in subsections (4) and (10) of this
3602 section on the basis of the forms and instructions for the
3603 disposition form to be supplied by the center.

3604 (7) All persons in charge of law enforcement agencies in
3605 this state shall furnish the center with any other identifying
3606 data required in accordance with guidelines established by the
3607 center. All law enforcement agencies and correctional
3608 institutions in this state having criminal identification files
3609 shall cooperate in providing the center with copies of the items
3610 in the files which will aid in establishing the nucleus of the
3611 state criminal identification file.

3612 (8) All law enforcement agencies within the state shall
3613 report to the center, in a manner prescribed by the center, all
3614 persons wanted by and all vehicles and identifiable property
3615 stolen from their jurisdictions. The report shall be made as soon



3616 as is practical after the investigating department or agency
3617 either ascertains that a vehicle or identifiable property has been
3618 stolen or obtains a warrant for an individual's arrest or
3619 determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the
3620 individual has committed a crime. All warrants shall be executed
3621 in compliance with Section 1 of this act. The report shall be
3622 made within a reasonable time period following the reporting
3623 department's or agency's determination that it has grounds to
3624 believe that a vehicle or property was stolen or that the wanted
3625 person should be arrested.

3626 (9) All law enforcement agencies in the state shall
3627 immediately notify the center if at any time after making a report
3628 as required by subsection (8) of this section it is determined by
3629 the reporting department or agency that a person is no longer
3630 wanted or that a vehicle or property stolen has been recovered.
3631 Furthermore, if the agency making the apprehension or recovery is
3632 not the one which made the original report, then it shall
3633 immediately notify the originating agency of the full particulars
3634 relating to the apprehension or recovery using methods prescribed
3635 by the center.

3636 (10) All law enforcement agencies in the state and clerks of
3637 the various courts shall promptly report to the center all
3638 instances where records of convictions of criminals are ordered
3639 expunged by courts of this state as now provided by law. The
3640 center shall promptly expunge from the files of the center and



destroy all records pertaining to any convictions that are ordered
expunged by the courts of this state as provided by law.

(11) The center shall not be held liable for the failure to
purge, destroy or expunge records if an agency or court fails to
forward to the center proper documentation ordering the action.

(12) Any criminal justice department or agency making an
expenditure in excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) in any
calendar year on software or programming upgrades concerning a
computerized records management system or jail management system
shall ensure that the new or upgraded system is formatted to
Department of Justice approved XML format and that no impediments
to data sharing with other agencies or departments exist in the
software programming.

(13) (a) All law enforcement agencies within the state
shall:

(i) Implement an incident-based reporting system
within the agency or department that meets the reporting
requirements of the National Incident-Based Reporting System
(NIBRS) of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal
Bureau of Investigation;

(ii) Use the system described by subparagraph (i)
to submit to the center information and statistics concerning
criminal offenses committed in the jurisdiction of the local law
enforcement agency, in a manner prescribed by the center; and



3665 (iii) Report the information as soon as is
3666 practicable after the investigating agency or department
3667 ascertains that a qualifying crime has been committed in its
3668 jurisdiction, once the state-level NIBRS Repository is available.

3669 (b) No later than December 31, 2025, state and local
3670 law enforcement agencies shall be compliant with all regulations
3671 promulgated by the Department of Public Safety's Criminal
3672 Information Center (CIC), with consultation with the President of
3673 the Sheriffs Association and Mississippi Association of Chiefs of
3674 Police with regard to the National Incident-Based Reporting System
3675 (NIBRS) of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the Federal
3676 Bureau of Investigation.

3677 **SECTION 50.** Section 45-33-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3678 amended as follows:

3679 45-33-33. (1) (a) The failure of an offender to personally
3680 appear at a facility designated by the Department of Public
3681 Safety, or in a manner of the Department of Public Safety's
3682 choosing, including by electronic means, or to provide any
3683 registration or other information, including, but not limited to,
3684 initial registration, reregistration, change of address
3685 information, change of employment, change of name, required
3686 notification to a volunteer organization or any other registration
3687 duty or submission of information required by this chapter is a
3688 violation of this chapter. Additionally, forgery of information



or submission of information under false pretenses, whether by the registrant or another person, is also a violation of this chapter.

(b) A person commits a violation of this chapter who:

(i) Knowingly harbors, or knowingly attempts to harbor, or knowingly assists another person in harboring or attempting to harbor a sex offender who is in violation of this chapter;

(ii) Knowingly assists a sex offender in eluding a law enforcement agency that is seeking to find the sex offender to question the sex offender about, or to arrest the sex offender for, noncompliance with the requirements of this chapter; or

(iii) Provides information to a law enforcement agency regarding a sex offender which the person knows to be false.

(c) A registrant who is required to submit to electronic monitoring who does not comply with all the terms and conditions of the electronic monitoring commits a violation of this chapter.

(2) (a) Unless otherwise specified, a violation of this chapter shall be considered a felony and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than five (5) years, or both fine and imprisonment.

(b) A person who is required to register under this chapter who is subsequently convicted for a registration violation



3714 under this section, upon release from incarceration, shall submit
3715 to mandatory electronic monitoring under the program established
3716 under Section 45-33-45 for a period computed by subtracting the
3717 time the person spent in actual incarceration from the five-year
3718 maximum imprisonment for the offense and the period of
3719 post-release monitoring shall not be suspended or reduced by the
3720 court or the Department of Corrections.

3721 (3) Whenever it appears that an offender has failed to
3722 comply with the duty to register, reregister or submit to
3723 electronic monitoring, the department shall promptly notify the
3724 sheriff of the county of the last-known address of the offender as
3725 well as the sheriff of the county of the last-known location of
3726 the offender, if different. Upon notification, the sheriff shall
3727 attempt to locate the offender at his last-known address or
3728 last-known location.

3729 (a) If the sheriff locates the offender, he shall
3730 enforce the provisions of this chapter, including initiation of
3731 prosecution if appropriate. The sheriff shall then notify the
3732 department with the current information regarding the offender.

3733 (b) If the sheriff is unable to locate the offender,
3734 the sheriff shall promptly notify the department and initiate a
3735 criminal prosecution against the offender for the failure to
3736 register, reregister or comply with electronic monitoring. The
3737 sheriff shall make the appropriate transactions into the Federal
3738 Bureau of Investigation's wanted-person database and issue a



3739 warrant for the offender's arrest. The warrant shall be executed
3740 in compliance with Section 1 of this act. The department shall
3741 notify the United States Marshals Service of the offender's
3742 noncompliant status and shall update the registry database and
3743 website to show the defendant's noncompliant status as an
3744 absconder.

3745 (4) A violation of this chapter shall result in the arrest
3746 of the offender.

3747 (5) Any prosecution for a violation of this section shall be
3748 brought by a prosecutor in the county of the violation.

3749 (6) A person required to register under this chapter who
3750 commits any act or omission in violation of this chapter may be
3751 prosecuted for the act or omission in the county in which the act
3752 or omission was committed, the county of the last registered
3753 address of the sex offender, the county in which the conviction
3754 occurred for the offense or offenses that meet the criteria
3755 requiring the person to register, the county in which he was
3756 designated a sex offender, or the county in which the sex offender
3757 was found.

3758 (7) The Commissioner of Public Safety or his authorized
3759 agent shall suspend the driver's license or driving privilege of
3760 any offender failing to comply with the duty to report, register
3761 or reregister, submit to monitoring, or who has provided false
3762 information.



3763 (8) When a person required to register under this chapter is
3764 accused of any registration offense under this section, pretrial
3765 release on bond shall be conditioned on the offender's submission
3766 to electronic monitoring under the program established under
3767 Section 45-33-45.

3768 **SECTION 51.** Section 45-33-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3769 amended as follows:

3770 45-33-63. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
3771 it is unlawful for a person required to register as a sex offender
3772 under Section 45-33-25 to do or commit any of the following
3773 actions with respect to the victim of the offense triggering the
3774 duty to register under this chapter:

3775 (a) Threaten, visit, assault, molest, abuse, injure, or
3776 otherwise interfere with the victim;

3777 (b) Follow the victim, including at the victim's
3778 workplace;

3779 (c) Harass the victim;

3780 (d) Contact the victim by telephone, written
3781 communication, or electronic means;

3782 (e) Enter or remain present at the victim's residence,
3783 school, or place of employment when the victim is present.

3784 (2) This section does not apply if the court in which the
3785 conviction was had, at the request of the victim or the parent,
3786 guardian or conservator of the victim, enters an order allowing
3787 contact with the victim. The court may enter such an order if the



3788 court determines that reasonable grounds for the victim to fear
3789 any future contact with the defendant no longer exist.

3790 (3) A violation of this section is a felony punishable by a
3791 fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and
3792 imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections for
3793 not less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) years.

3794 (4) A law enforcement officer shall arrest and take into
3795 custody a person, with or without a warrant in compliance with
3796 Section 1 of this act or other process, if the officer has
3797 probable cause to believe that the person knowingly has violated
3798 this section.

3799 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the
3800 issuance or enforcement of a criminal sexual assault protection
3801 against a defendant who has been convicted under Section 97-3-65
3802 or 97-3-95.

3803 (6) This section shall be known as Carly's Law.

3804 **SECTION 52.** Section 47-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3805 amended as follows:

3806 47-7-27. (1) The board may, at any time and upon a showing
3807 of probable violation of parole, issue a warrant for the return of
3808 any paroled offender to the custody of the department. The
3809 warrant shall authorize all persons named therein to return the
3810 paroled offender to actual custody of the department from which he
3811 was paroled.



3812 (2) Any field supervisor may arrest an offender without a
3813 warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act or may deputize
3814 any other person with power of arrest by giving him a written
3815 statement setting forth that the offender has, in the judgment of
3816 that field supervisor, violated the conditions of his parole or
3817 earned-release supervision. The written statement delivered with
3818 the offender by the arresting officer to the official in charge of
3819 the department facility from which the offender was released or
3820 other place of detention designated by the department shall be
3821 sufficient warrant for the detention of the offender.

3822 (3) The field supervisor, after making an arrest, shall
3823 present to the detaining authorities a similar statement of the
3824 circumstances of violation. The field supervisor shall at once
3825 notify the board or department of the arrest and detention of the
3826 offender and shall submit a written report showing in what manner
3827 the offender has violated the conditions of parole or
3828 earned-release supervision. An offender for whose return a
3829 warrant has been issued by the board shall, after the issuance of
3830 the warrant, be deemed a fugitive from justice.

3831 (4) Whenever an offender is arrested on a warrant in
3832 compliance with Section 1 of this act for an alleged violation of
3833 parole as herein provided, the board shall hold an informal
3834 preliminary hearing within seventy-two (72) hours to determine
3835 whether there is reasonable cause to believe the person has
3836 violated a condition of parole. A preliminary hearing shall not



be required when the offender is not under arrest on a warrant or the offender signed a waiver of a preliminary hearing. The preliminary hearing may be conducted electronically.

(5) The right of the State of Mississippi to extradite persons and return fugitives from justice, from other states to this state, shall not be impaired by this chapter and shall remain in full force and effect. An offender convicted of a felony committed while on parole, whether in the State of Mississippi or another state, shall immediately have his parole revoked upon presentment of a certified copy of the commitment order to the board. If an offender is on parole and the offender is convicted of a felony for a crime committed prior to the offender being placed on parole, whether in the State of Mississippi or another state, the offender may have his parole revoked upon presentment of a certified copy of the commitment order to the board.

(6) (a) The board shall hold a hearing for any parolee who is detained as a result of a warrant or a violation report within twenty-one (21) days of the parolee's admission to detention. The board may, in its discretion, terminate the parole or modify the terms and conditions thereof. If the board revokes parole for one or more technical violations the board shall impose a period of imprisonment to be served in a technical violation center operated by the department not to exceed ninety (90) days for the first revocation and not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days for the second revocation. For the third revocation, the board may impose



3862 a period of imprisonment to be served in a technical violation
3863 center for up to one hundred * * * eighty (180) days or the board
3864 may impose the remainder of the suspended portion of the sentence.
3865 For the fourth and any subsequent revocation, the board may impose
3866 up to the remainder of the suspended portion of the sentence. The
3867 period of imprisonment in a technical violation center imposed
3868 under this section shall not be reduced in any manner.

3869 (b) If the board does not hold a hearing or does not
3870 take action on the violation within the twenty-one-day time frame
3871 in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the parolee shall be released
3872 from detention and shall return to parole status. The board may
3873 subsequently hold a hearing and may revoke parole or may continue
3874 parole and modify the terms and conditions of parole. If the
3875 board revokes parole for one or more technical violations the
3876 board shall impose a period of imprisonment to be served in a
3877 technical violation center operated by the department not to
3878 exceed ninety (90) days for the first revocation and not to exceed
3879 one hundred twenty (120) days for the second revocation. For the
3880 third revocation, the board may impose a period of imprisonment to
3881 be served in a technical violation center for up to one hundred
3882 eighty (180) days or the board may impose the remainder of the
3883 suspended portion of the sentence. For the fourth and any
3884 subsequent revocation, the board may impose up to the remainder of
3885 the suspended portion of the sentence. The period of imprisonment



3886 in a technical violation center imposed under this section shall
3887 not be reduced in any manner.

3888 (c) For a parolee charged with one or more technical
3889 violations who has not been detained awaiting the revocation
3890 hearing, the board may hold a hearing within a reasonable time.
3891 The board may revoke parole or may continue parole and modify the
3892 terms and conditions of parole. If the board revokes parole for
3893 one or more technical violations the board shall impose a period
3894 of imprisonment to be served in a technical violation center
3895 operated by the department not to exceed ninety (90) days for the
3896 first revocation and not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days
3897 for the second revocation. For the third revocation, the board
3898 may impose a period of imprisonment to be served in a technical
3899 violation center for up to one hundred eighty (180) days or the
3900 board may impose the remainder of the suspended portion of the
3901 sentence. For the fourth and any subsequent revocation, the board
3902 may impose up to the remainder of the suspended portion of the
3903 sentence. The period of imprisonment in a technical violation
3904 center imposed under this section shall not be reduced in any
3905 manner.

3906 (7) Unless good cause for the delay is established in the
3907 record of the proceeding, the parole revocation charge shall be
3908 dismissed if the revocation hearing is not held within the thirty
3909 (30) days of the issuance of the warrant.



3910 (8) The chairman and each member of the board and the
3911 designated parole revocation hearing officer may, in the discharge
3912 of their duties, administer oaths, summon and examine witnesses,
3913 and take other steps as may be necessary to ascertain the truth of
3914 any matter about which they have the right to inquire.

3915 (9) The board shall provide semiannually to the Oversight
3916 Task Force the number of warrants issued for an alleged violation
3917 of parole, the average time between detention on a warrant and
3918 preliminary hearing, the average time between detention on a
3919 warrant and revocation hearing, the number of ninety-day sentences
3920 in a technical violation center issued by the board, the number of
3921 one-hundred-twenty-day sentences in a technical violation center
3922 issued by the board, the number of one-hundred-eighty-day
3923 sentences issued by the board, and the number and average length
3924 of the suspended sentences imposed by the board in response to a
3925 violation.

3926 **SECTION 53.** Section 49-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3927 amended as follows:

3928 49-5-47. In case of a violation of this chapter or any law
3929 or regulation for the protection of wild animals, birds, fish by a
3930 corporation the warrant of arrest may be read to and a true copy
3931 delivered to the president, secretary, or manager in this state,
3932 or to any general or local agent thereof in the county in
3933 compliance with Section 1 of this act where the action is pending,
3934 and, upon the return of such warrant so served, the corporation



shall be deemed in court and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, and any fines imposed may be collected by the execution against the property of such corporation, but this section shall not be deemed to exempt any agent or employee from prosecution.

SECTION 54. Section 49-5-115, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

49-5-115. (a) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of Section 49-5-107, or any regulations issued under Section 49-5-107 or whoever fails to procure or violates the terms of any permit issued thereunder shall be guilty of a Class I violation and punished as provided in Section 49-7-141.

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (c) of Section 49-5-109, or any regulations issued pursuant thereto or whoever fails to procure or violates the terms of any permit issued under subsections (d) and (e) of Section 49-5-111 is guilty of a Class I violation and is punishable as provided under Section 49-7-141.

(c) All law enforcement and management officers of the commission and other law enforcement officers authorized to enforce the laws of the State of Mississippi are authorized to carry out the provisions of Sections 49-5-101 through 49-5-119. Any officer or agent may, without warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, arrest any person who the officer or agent has probable cause to believe is violating, in his presence or view, any section, regulation or permit provided for by Sections



3960 49-5-101 through 49-5-119. An officer or agent who has made an
3961 arrest of a person for any such violation may search the person or
3962 business records at the time of arrest and seize any wildlife,
3963 records, or property taken, or used in connection with the
3964 violation.

3965 (d) Equipment, merchandise, wildlife, or records seized
3966 under subsection (c) of this section shall be held by an officer
3967 or agent of the commission pending disposition of court
3968 proceedings, and may be forfeited to the state for destruction or
3969 disposition as the commission may deem appropriate. Prior to
3970 forfeiture, the commission may direct the transfer of wildlife so
3971 seized to a qualified zoological, educational, or scientific
3972 institution for safekeeping, costs thereof to be assessable to the
3973 defendant. The commission is authorized to issue regulations to
3974 implement this subsection.

3975 **SECTION 55.** Section 49-15-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3976 amended as follows:

3977 49-15-45. Any municipality bounded by the Gulf of Mexico or
3978 Mississippi Sound, which has wholly or partly within its corporate
3979 limits, or in the waters adjacent thereto, a public oyster reef
3980 reserved for catching oysters exclusively by use of hand tongs, is
3981 hereby authorized to aid and cooperate with the department in
3982 enforcing all laws regulating the catching, taking and
3983 transporting of oysters, including all of the provisions of this
3984 chapter in compliance with Section 1 of this act, and all



3985 regulations and ordinances of such department relating to such
3986 oyster reefs.

3987 **SECTION 56.** Section 51-9-175, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3988 amended as follows:

3989 51-9-175. (1) The board of directors of the district may
3990 appoint and commission qualified persons as reservoir police
3991 officers of the district. Any such reservoir police officer so
3992 appointed shall be certified by the Board on Law Enforcement
3993 Officer Standards and Training or in accordance with the Board on
3994 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training and shall attain
3995 certification or recertification within one (1) year of
3996 appointment, and shall at all times be answerable and responsible
3997 to the board of directors of the district.

3998 (2) A reservoir police officer appointed and commissioned as
3999 provided in subsection (1) of this section shall, before entering
4000 upon his duties as such officer, take the oath of office
4001 prescribed by Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which
4002 shall be endorsed upon his commission. The commission, with the
4003 oath endorsed upon it, shall be entered in the official minute
4004 book of the district.

4005 (3) A reservoir police officer appointed and commissioned
4006 pursuant to the provisions of this article, shall, while engaged
4007 in the performance of his duties, carry on his person a badge
4008 identifying him as a reservoir police officer of the district and
4009 an identification card issued by the district. When in uniform,



4010 each such reservoir police officer shall wear his badge in plain
4011 view.

4012 (4) A reservoir police officer may exercise the same powers
4013 of arrest in compliance with Section 1 of this act and the right
4014 to bear firearms that may be exercised by any state, municipal or
4015 other police officer in this state, but only with respect to
4016 violations of law or violations of regulations adopted pursuant to
4017 Section 51-9-127, which are committed on the property owned by the
4018 district. This includes property which is owned by the district
4019 but has been leased or rented to other parties. Any right granted
4020 under this subsection in no way relieves the requirements of
4021 appropriate affidavit and warrant for arrest from the appropriate
4022 jurisdiction and authority pursuant to the laws of this state.

4023 (5) On behalf of each person who is trained as a reservoir
4024 police officer at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers'
4025 Training Academy, the district shall be required to pay to the
4026 academy at least an amount equal to the per student cost of
4027 operation of the academy as tuition.

4028 **SECTION 57.** Section 59-21-127, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4029 amended as follows:

4030 59-21-127. It shall be the duty of all enforcement officers
4031 to enforce, and to obey and carry out all instructions,
4032 directions, rules and regulations of the commission with respect
4033 to the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter. Each



enforcement officer shall account for and pay over, pursuant to law, all monies received by him or her under this chapter.

Such enforcement officers shall have the power, and it shall be their duty, to execute all warrants in compliance with Section 1 of this act for violations of the rules and regulations of the commission and the provisions of this chapter; to serve subpoenas issued for the examination and investigation or trial of such violations; to board and examine, without warrant, any vessel required to be numbered under this chapter, to ascertain whether any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or regulation of the commission has been or is being violated, and to use such force as may be necessary for the purpose of such examination and inspection; to arrest, without warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, any person committing a violation of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the commission in the presence of the enforcement officers, and to take such person before a magistrate or court having jurisdiction for trial or hearing; and to exercise such other powers of peace officers in the enforcement of this chapter and the rules and regulations of the commission or of a judgment for the violation thereof, as are not herein specifically provided. No enforcement officers shall compromise or settle out of court any violation of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or regulation promulgated by the commission.

SECTION 58. Section 63-9-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



63-9-23. The foregoing provisions of this chapter shall govern all police officers in making arrests without a warrant for violations of Chapters 3, 5 and 7 of this title for offenses committed in their presence, but the procedure prescribed herein shall not otherwise be exclusive of any other method prescribed by law for the arrest and prosecution of a person for an offense of like grade. All arrests shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 59. Section 63-17-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

63-17-5. Any owner or person having an automobile in his or her possession shall, upon request of any sheriff, constable, justice of the peace, mayor, marshal or police officer, exhibit to such officer for inspection the bill of sale provided for in Section 63-17-1, or shall permit such officer to make inspection of such automobile, and shall answer all inquiries truthfully that may be propounded by such officer with references to such automobile and the history of the title thereto. Refusal so to do shall subject such person to immediate arrest by such officer, without warrant in compliance with Section 1 of this act, and subject him or her to the penalties prescribed by law.

SECTION 60. Section 65-1-131, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

65-1-131. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission may appoint and commission qualified persons as security officers of



4084 the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Any such security
4085 officer so appointed shall be a full-time employee of the
4086 Transportation Department and shall not be employed by any
4087 privately owned guard or security service, and shall at all times
4088 be answerable and responsible to the Mississippi Transportation
4089 Commission and the Executive Director of the Mississippi
4090 Department of Transportation.

4091 (2) A security officer appointed and commissioned as
4092 provided in subsection (1) of this section shall, before entering
4093 upon his duties as such officer, take the oath of office
4094 prescribed by Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which
4095 shall be endorsed upon his commission. The commission, with the
4096 oath endorsed upon it, shall be entered in the official minute
4097 book of the Transportation Commission.

4098 (3) A security officer appointed and commissioned pursuant
4099 to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, shall, while
4100 engaged in the performance of his duties, carry on his person a
4101 badge identifying him as a security officer of the Mississippi
4102 Department of Transportation and an identification card issued by
4103 the Transportation Commission. When in uniform, each such
4104 security officer shall wear his badge in plain view.

4105 (4) A security officer appointed and commissioned under
4106 subsection (1) of this section may exercise the same powers of
4107 arrest in compliance with Section 1 of this act and the right to
4108 bear firearms that may be exercised by any state, municipal or



4109 other police officer in this state, but only with respect to
4110 violations of law which are committed on or within buildings,
4111 property or facilities owned by or under the jurisdiction of the
4112 Transportation Commission or the Transportation Department. Any
4113 right granted under this subsection in no way relieves the
4114 requirements of appropriate affidavit and warrant for arrest from
4115 the appropriate jurisdiction and authority pursuant to the laws of
4116 this state.

4117 (5) On behalf of each person who is employed as a security
4118 officer under subsection (1) of this section and who is trained as
4119 a security officer at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers'
4120 Training Academy, the Transportation Department shall be required
4121 to pay to the academy at least an amount equal to the per student
4122 cost of operation of said academy as tuition.

4123 **SECTION 61.** Section 67-1-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4124 amended as follows:

4125 67-1-31. The department shall issue to all agents and
4126 inspectors appointed under this article a written certificate of
4127 appointment under the seal of said department, of which judicial
4128 notice shall be taken by all courts of this state. Such agents
4129 and inspectors are hereby declared to be police officers in
4130 enforcing the provisions of this article, and in the performance
4131 of their duties such employees shall have the authority to bear
4132 arms, to make arrests, in compliance with Section 1 of this act to
4133 make searches and seizures under this article and in compliance



4134 with Section 1 of this act, and to serve any protest, notice or
4135 order connected with the enforcement of this article by whatever
4136 officer or authority of court issued. The members of the
4137 department shall not be personally liable to any person on account
4138 of any act, neglect or omission of any such agent or inspector.

4139 The powers and duties of the agents and inspectors shall
4140 include, in addition to all others prescribed by law the following
4141 powers: to arrest, without warrant, any person committing or
4142 attempting to commit a misdemeanor, felony or a breach of the
4143 peace within his presence or view, and to pursue and so arrest any
4144 person committing such an offense to and at any place in the state
4145 where the person may go or be; and to aid and assist any law
4146 enforcement officer, if requested.

4147 **SECTION 62.** Section 77-7-335, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4148 amended as follows:

4149 77-7-335. (1) All division inspectors on duty shall wear
4150 uniforms, shall have the right to bear arms, and shall have the
4151 authority to make arrests and hold and impound any vehicle and the
4152 contents thereof which is being operated in violation of this
4153 chapter or the commission's or the department's rules, regulations
4154 or general orders promulgated thereunder.

4155 (2) All inspectors shall have the authority to enforce all
4156 of the laws, rules and regulations of the commission and the
4157 department under this chapter upon all highways in the state and
4158 the rights-of-way of such highways and other properties as defined



4159 in Section 77-7-261; except that if any person commits an offense
4160 in violation of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the
4161 commission or the department upon a highway in the state and be
4162 pursued by an enforcement officer or inspector of the division,
4163 such enforcement officer or inspector may pursue and apprehend
4164 such offender upon any of the highways in this state, or to any
4165 other place to which such offender may flee.

4166 (3) All inspectors shall have the authority to aid and
4167 assist any law enforcement officer whose life or safety is in
4168 jeopardy and may arrest without warrant in compliance with Section
4169 1 of this act any fugitive from justice who has escaped or who is
4170 using the highways in the state in an attempt to flee. Inspectors
4171 of the division may assist other law enforcement agencies in
4172 searching for convicted felons who have escaped or for alleged
4173 felons where there is probable cause to believe that the person
4174 being sought committed the felony and a felony had actually been
4175 committed.

4176 (4) Upon request of a sheriff of any county or the chief of
4177 police of any community, all division inspectors have the
4178 authority to assist in traffic control during time of natural
4179 disasters, such as hurricanes, tornados or floods.

4180 (5) All inspectors shall have the authority to assist any
4181 officer of the department at the discretion and direction of the
4182 commissioner.



(6) All inspectors shall have the authority to purchase and use speed detection equipment on commercial vehicles that they are authorized to inspect as provided in Section 77-7-16.

SECTION 63. Section 77-9-505, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

77-9-505. (1) Upon request by the chief police officer of any railroad located wholly or partially within this state, the Commissioner of Public Safety may appoint and commission as a railroad police officer any qualified person named by such chief police officer; provided, however, that the Commissioner of Public Safety may refuse to appoint or may rescind the appointment of anyone. Any such railroad police officer so appointed shall at all times be answerable and responsible to the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(2) A railroad police officer appointed and commissioned as provided in subsection (1) of this section shall, before entering upon his or her duties as such officer, take the oath of office prescribed by Section 268, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, which shall be endorsed upon his or her commission. The commission, with the oath endorsed upon it, shall be recorded in the office of the Commissioner of Public Safety.

(3) A railroad police officer appointed and commissioned pursuant to the provisions of Sections 77-9-501 through 77-9-517 shall, while engaged in the performance of his or her duties, carry on his person a badge identifying him or her as a police



4208 officer of the railroad and an identification card issued by the
4209 railroad and countersigned by the Commissioner of Public Safety.
4210 When in uniform each such railroad police officer shall wear his
4211 or her badge in plain view.

4212 (4) A railroad policeman may exercise the same powers of
4213 arrest and the right to bear firearms that may be exercised by any
4214 state, municipal or other police officer in this state, but only
4215 with respect to offenses committed against property owned by or in
4216 the possession of the railroad or against any person arising out
4217 of an offense committed against said railroad on railroad
4218 property, or against any employee of the railroad engaged in the
4219 performance of his or her duties. Railroad property for the
4220 purposes of Sections 77-9-501 through 77-9-517 shall be construed
4221 to mean only property owned by or in possession of the railroad on
4222 railroad rights-of-way or switching yards. Any right granted
4223 under this subsection in no way relieves the requirements of
4224 appropriate affidavit and warrant for arrest from the appropriate
4225 jurisdiction and authority pursuant to the laws of this state and
4226 in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

4227 (5) Any person who is trained as a railroad police officer
4228 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy shall be
4229 required to pay at least an amount equal to the per student cost
4230 of operation of said academy as tuition.

4231 **SECTION 64.** Section 93-9-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4232 amended as follows:



4233 93-9-31. (1) The court shall, if need be, require the
4234 father to give security by bond or other security, with sufficient
4235 sureties approved by the court, for the payment of the order of
4236 filiation. Such security, when required, shall not exceed three
4237 (3) times the total periodic sum the father shall be required to
4238 pay under the terms of the order of filiation in any one (1)
4239 calendar year. If bond or security be required, and in case the
4240 action has been instituted by a public welfare official, the
4241 defendant shall also be required to give security that he will
4242 indemnify the state and the county where the child was or may be
4243 born and every other county against any expense for the support
4244 and education of the child, which said undertaking shall also
4245 require that all arrears shall be paid by the principal and
4246 sureties. In default of such security, when required, the court
4247 may commit him to jail, or put him on probation. At any time
4248 within one (1) year he may be discharged from jail, but his
4249 liability to pay the judgment shall not be thereby affected.

4250 (2) Whenever any order of filiation has been made, but no
4251 bond or other security has been required for payment of support of
4252 the child, and whenever such payments as have become due remain
4253 unpaid for a period of at least thirty (30) days, the court may,
4254 upon petition of the person to whom such payments are due, or such
4255 person's legal representative, enter an order requiring that bond
4256 or other security be given by the father in accordance with and
4257 under such terms and conditions as provided for in subsection (1)



4258 of this section. The father shall, as in other civil actions, be
4259 served with process and shall be entitled to a hearing in such
4260 case.

4261 (3) Where security is given and default is made in any
4262 payment, the court shall cite the parties bound by the security
4263 requiring them to show cause why judgment should not be given
4264 against them and execution issued thereon. If the amount due and
4265 unpaid shall not be paid before the return day of the citation,
4266 and no cause be shown to the contrary, judgment shall be rendered
4267 against those served with the citation for the amount due and
4268 unpaid together with costs, and execution shall issue therefor,
4269 saving all remedies upon the bond for future default. The
4270 judgment is a lien on real estate and in other respects
4271 enforceable the same as other judgments. The amount collected on
4272 such judgment or such sums as may have been deposited as
4273 collateral, in lieu of bond when forfeited, may be used for the
4274 benefit of the child, as provided for in the order of filiation.

4275 (4) If at any time after an order of filiation in paternity
4276 proceedings shall have been made, and an undertaking given
4277 thereon, in accordance with the provisions of Sections 93-9-1
4278 through 93-9-49 and such undertaking shall not be complied with,
4279 or that for any reason a recovery thereon cannot be had, or if the
4280 original undertaking shall have been complied with, and the
4281 sureties discharged therefrom, or if money were deposited in lieu
4282 of bail, and the same shall have been exhausted, and the natural



child still needs support, the public welfare official of any county where the natural child for whose support the order of filiation was made shall be at the time, or the Commissioner of the State Welfare Department upon giving proof of the making of the order of filiation, the giving of the above-mentioned undertaking, and the noncompliance therewith, or that the sureties have been discharged from their liability, or that for any reason a recovery cannot be had on such undertaking, may apply to the court in such county having jurisdiction in filiation proceedings, for a warrant for the arrest of the defendant against whom such order of filiation was made in compliance with Section 1 of this act, which shall be executed in the manner provided in criminal procedure for the execution of the warrant; upon the arrest and arraignment of the defendant in said court, and upon proof of the making of the order of filiation, the giving of the above-mentioned undertaking, and the noncompliance therewith, or that for any reason a recovery cannot be had on such undertaking, the said court shall make an order requiring him to give a new undertaking, which said undertaking shall also require that all arrears shall be paid by the principal and sureties, or upon his failure to give such new undertaking, shall commit him to jail, or put him on probation.

(5) If the child and mother die, or the father and mother be legally married to each other, the court in which such security is



4307 filed, on proof of such fact, may cause the security to be marked
4308 "cancelled" and be surrendered to the obligors.

4309 **SECTION 65.** Section 97-19-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4310 amended as follows:

4311 97-19-75. (1) The holder of any check, draft or order for
4312 the payment of money which has been made, drawn, issued, uttered
4313 or delivered in violation of Section 97-19-55, Mississippi Code of
4314 1972, may, after complying with the provisions of Section
4315 97-19-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, present a complaint to the
4316 district attorney. The complaint shall be accompanied by the
4317 original check, draft or order upon which the complaint is filed
4318 and the return receipt showing mailing of notice under Section
4319 97-19-57, Mississippi Code of 1972. Not more than one (1) check,
4320 draft or order shall be included within a single complaint. Upon
4321 receipt of such complaint, the district attorney shall evaluate
4322 the complaint to determine whether or not the complaint is
4323 appropriate to be processed by the district attorney.

4324 (2) If, after filing a complaint with the district attorney,
4325 the complainant wishes to withdraw the complaint for good cause,
4326 the complainant shall pay a fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) to the
4327 office of the district attorney for processing such complaint.
4328 Upon payment of the processing fee and withdrawal of the
4329 complaint, the district attorney shall return the original check,
4330 draft or order to the complainant.



4331 (3) After approval of the complaint by the district
4332 attorney, a warrant may be issued by any judicial officer
4333 authorized by law to issue arrest warrants, the warrant shall be
4334 executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act and the warrant
4335 may be held by the district attorney. After issuance of a warrant
4336 or upon approval of a complaint by the district attorney, the
4337 district attorney shall issue a notice to the individual charged
4338 in the complaint, informing him that a warrant has been issued for
4339 his arrest or that a complaint has been received by the district
4340 attorney and that he may be eligible for deferred prosecution for
4341 a violation of Section 97-19-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, by
4342 voluntarily surrendering himself to the district attorney within
4343 ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excepted,
4344 from receipt of the notice. Such notice shall be sent by United
4345 States mail.

4346 (4) (a) If the check is not a casino marker, and the
4347 accused voluntarily surrenders himself within the time period as
4348 provided by subsection (3) of this section, the accused shall be
4349 presented with the complaint and/or warrant and prosecution of the
4350 accused may be deferred upon payment by the accused of a service
4351 charge in the amount of Forty Dollars (\$40.00) to the district
4352 attorney and by execution of a restitution agreement as
4353 hereinafter provided.

4354 (b) If the check is a casino marker, and the accused
4355 voluntarily surrenders himself within the time period as provided



4356 by subsection (3) of this section, the accused shall be presented
4357 with the complaint and/or warrant, and prosecution of the accused
4358 may be deferred upon payment by the accused of a service charge in
4359 the amounts specified in this paragraph (b) to the district
4360 attorney and by execution of a restitution agreement as
4361 hereinafter provided. The amounts of the service charge are as
4362 follows:

4363 (i) Forty Dollars (\$40.00), if the amount of the
4364 check or draft is equal to or less than One Hundred Dollars
4365 (\$100.00).

4366 (ii) Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), if the face amount of
4367 the check or draft is more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) but
4368 does not exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

4369 (iii) Seventy-five Dollars (\$75.00), if the face
4370 amount of the check or draft is more than Three Hundred Dollars
4371 (\$300.00) but does not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

4372 (iv) One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00), if the
4373 face amount of the check or draft is more than One Thousand
4374 Dollars (\$1,000.00) but does not exceed Two Thousand Five Hundred
4375 Dollars (\$2,500.00).

4376 (v) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), if the face
4377 amount of the check or draft is more than Two Thousand Five
4378 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) but does not exceed Ten Thousand
4379 Dollars (\$10,000.00).



4380 (vi) Ten percent (10%) of the face amount of the
4381 check or draft, if the face amount of the check or draft is more
4382 than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

4383 (5) For the purposes of Sections 97-19-73 through 97-19-81,
4384 the term "restitution" shall mean and be defined as the face
4385 amount of any check, draft or order for the payment of money made,
4386 drawn, issued, uttered or delivered in violation of Section
4387 97-19-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, plus a service charge payable
4388 to the complainant in the amount of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00).

4389 (6) After an accused has voluntarily surrendered himself and
4390 paid the service charge as provided by subsection (4) of this
4391 section, the district attorney may enter into a restitution
4392 agreement with the accused prescribing the terms by which the
4393 accused shall satisfy restitution to the district attorney on
4394 behalf of the complainant. The terms of such agreement shall be
4395 determined on a case-by-case basis by the district attorney, but
4396 the duration of any such agreement shall be no longer than a
4397 period of six (6) months. No interest shall be charged or
4398 collected on restitution monies. The restitution agreement shall
4399 be signed by the accused and approved by the district attorney
4400 before it is effective. If the accused does not honor each term
4401 of the restitution agreement signed by him, the accused may be
4402 proceeded against by prosecution under the provisions of Sections
4403 97-19-55 through 97-19-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and as
4404 provided by Section 97-19-79. If the accused makes restitution



4405 and pays all charges set out by statute or if the accused enters
4406 into a restitution agreement as set out above and honors all terms
4407 of such agreement, then if requested, the original check may be
4408 returned to the accused and a photocopy retained in the check
4409 file.

4410 (7) If the holder of any check, draft or order for the
4411 payment of money presents to the district attorney satisfactory
4412 evidence that the original check, draft or order is unavailable
4413 and satisfactory evidence of the check, draft or order is
4414 presented in the form of bank records or a photographic copy of
4415 the instrument, whether from microfilm or otherwise, then the
4416 procedures provided for in this section may be followed in the
4417 absence of the original check, draft or order.

4418 **SECTION 66.** Section 97-19-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4419 amended as follows:

4420 97-19-79. If, after receiving notice as provided for by
4421 subsection (3) of Section 97-19-75, the accused fails to timely
4422 surrender himself to the district attorney as prescribed in the
4423 notice or, if having timely surrendered himself, the accused fails
4424 to pay the service charge prescribed by subsection (4) of Section
4425 97-19-75 and/or fails to execute or comply with the terms of any
4426 restitution agreement executed in accordance with the provisions
4427 of Section 97-19-75, then the district attorney shall file the
4428 complaint, along with the arrest warrant, if any, which the
4429 district attorney may be holding against the accused, with the



4430 municipal court, justice court, county court or circuit court in
4431 his district having jurisdiction, and prosecution against the
4432 accused may be commenced in accordance with the provisions of
4433 Sections 97-19-55 through 97-19-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, or
4434 as otherwise provided by law. The arrest warrant shall be
4435 executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act. If such
4436 prosecution is commenced, the court may assess the defendant the
4437 service charge payable to the district attorney as provided in
4438 Section 97-19-75(4), Mississippi Code of 1972.

4439 **SECTION 67.** Section 99-3-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4440 amended as follows:

4441 99-3-18. (1) In any case in which a person is arrested for
4442 an offense declared to be a misdemeanor and does not demand to be
4443 taken before a municipal judge, justice court judge or other
4444 judge, such person may, instead of being taken before a judge, be
4445 released according to the procedures set forth by this section and
4446 Section 99-3-17. If the arresting officer or his superior
4447 determines that the person should be released, such officer or
4448 superior shall prepare in duplicate a written notice to appear in
4449 court, containing the name and address of such person, the offense
4450 charged, and the time when and place where such person shall
4451 appear in court. If the person is not released prior to being
4452 booked and the officer in charge of the booking or his superior
4453 determines that the person should be released, such officer or
4454 superior shall prepare such written notice to appear in court.



Unless waived by the arrested person, the time specified in the notice to appear shall be at least five (5) days after arrest. The place specified in the notice shall be the court of the municipal judge, justice court judge or other judge before whom the person would be taken if the requirement of taking an arrested person before a judge were complied with, or shall be an officer authorized by such court to receive a deposit of bail.

(2) The officer shall deliver one (1) copy of the notice to appear to the arrested person, and the arrested person, in order to secure release, shall give his written promise to appear in court by signing the duplicate notice which shall be retained by the officer. Thereupon the arresting officer shall forthwith release the person arrested from custody. The officer shall, as soon as practicable, file the duplicate notice with the municipal judge, justice court judge or other judge specified therein. No warrant shall issue on such charge for the arrest of a person who has given such written promise to appear in court, unless and until he has violated such promise or has failed to appear for trial or judgment, or to comply with the terms and provisions of the judgment, as required by law. All arrests shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(3) If the arrested person is not released pursuant to the provisions of this section and Section 99-3-17 prior to being booked by the arresting agency, then at the time of booking, the officer in charge of such booking or his superior officer, or any



4480 other person designated by a city or county for this purpose may
4481 make an immediate investigation into the background of the person
4482 to determine whether he should be released pursuant to the
4483 provisions of this section and Section 99-3-17. Such
4484 investigation shall include, but need not be limited to, the
4485 person's name, address, length of residence at that address,
4486 length of residence within this state, marital and family status,
4487 employment, length of that employment, prior arrest record and
4488 such other facts relating to the person's arrest which would bear
4489 on the question of his release pursuant to the provisions of this
4490 section and Section 99-3-17.

4491 **SECTION 68.** Section 99-3-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4492 amended as follows:

4493 99-3-19. When a person accused of any offense removes or
4494 escapes to another county, a warrant issued by a justice of the
4495 peace in the county in which the offense was committed shall
4496 authorize the arrest of such offender, and his or her removal to
4497 the county in which the offense was committed or is triable. All
4498 arrests shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this
4499 act.

4500 **SECTION 69.** Section 99-3-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4501 amended as follows:

4502 99-3-21. A justice of the peace of any county into which an
4503 offender may have removed himself or herself or escaped, on the
4504 oath of some credible person, may issue his or her warrant for the



arrest of such offender, returnable before any justice of the peace of the county where the offense is cognizable, which shall authorize the arrest and removal of such offender to the proper county for examination. The arrest shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 70. Section 99-3-28, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-3-28. (1) (a) (i) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, before an arrest warrant shall be issued against any teacher who is a licensed public school employee as defined in Section 37-9-1, a certified jail officer as defined in Section 45-4-9, a counselor at an adolescent opportunity program created under Section 43-27-201 et seq., or a sworn law enforcement officer within this state as defined in Section 45-6-3 for a criminal act, whether misdemeanor or felony, which is alleged to have occurred while the teacher, jail officer, counselor at an adolescent opportunity program or law enforcement officer was in the performance of official duties, a probable cause hearing shall be held before a circuit court judge. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine if adequate probable cause exists for the issuance of a warrant. All parties testifying in these proceedings shall do so under oath. The accused shall have the right to enter an appearance at the hearing, represented by legal counsel at his own expense, to hear the accusations and evidence against him; he may present evidence or testify in his own behalf.



4530 (ii) The authority receiving any such charge or
4531 complaint against a teacher, jail officer, counselor at an
4532 adolescent offender program or law enforcement officer shall
4533 immediately present same to the county prosecuting attorney having
4534 jurisdiction who shall immediately present the charge or complaint
4535 to a circuit judge in the judicial district where the action arose
4536 for disposition pursuant to this section.

4537 (b) For any person not covered under paragraph (a) of
4538 this subsection, before an arrest warrant based on the criminal
4539 complaint of a person who is not a law enforcement officer acting
4540 in the officer's official capacity may be issued against the
4541 person for an alleged criminal act, whether misdemeanor or felony,
4542 the appropriate judge must make a determination, with or without a
4543 hearing, as to whether the affidavit clearly identifies probable
4544 cause to believe that the offense alleged has been committed, at
4545 the discretion of the court. If the judge elects to hold a
4546 probable cause hearing, parties testifying shall do so under oath
4547 and the accused shall have the right to enter an appearance, be
4548 represented by legal counsel at his own expense, to hear the
4549 accusations and evidence against him, and may present evidence or
4550 testify in his own behalf.

4551 (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the issuance of
4552 an arrest warrant by a circuit court judge upon presentation of
4553 probable cause, without the holding of a probable cause hearing,
4554 if adequate evidence is presented to satisfy the court that there



is a significant risk that the accused will flee the court's jurisdiction or that the accused poses a threat to the safety or well-being of the public. The arrest warrant shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a law enforcement officer from arresting any person under circumstances in which the law enforcement officer would not be required to seek a warrant from a court.

SECTION 71. Section 99-20-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-20-17. Upon failure to complete the community service sentence, the case shall be restored to the court calendar for resentencing and a warrant for the arrest of the defendant shall immediately be issued. The arrest warrant shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 72. Section 99-21-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

99-21-1. Any conservator of the peace, upon complaint on oath made before him or her, or on other satisfactory evidence, that any person within this state has committed treason, felony, or other crime in some other state or territory, and has fled from justice may issue a warrant for the arrest of such person as if the offense had been committed in this state The arrest warrant shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.



4579 **SECTION 73.** Section 99-33-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4580 amended as follows:

4581 99-33-3. On affidavit of the commission of any crime, of
4582 which the justice court has jurisdiction, lodged with the justice
4583 court, the clerk shall, upon direction by a justice court judge of
4584 the county, issue a warrant for the arrest of the offender
4585 returnable forthwith or on a certain day to be named. The arrest
4586 warrant shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this
4587 act. The clerk, or the justice court judge to whom the case is
4588 assigned, shall issue subpoenas for witnesses as in civil cases,
4589 and the justice court judge may enter a conviction as provided in
4590 Section 99-19-3, or shall try and dispose of the case according to
4591 law; and, on conviction, shall order such punishment to be
4592 inflicted as the law provides; provided, however, that no fine
4593 imposed shall be in an amount less than Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

4594 **SECTION 74.** Section 99-37-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4595 amended as follows:

4596 99-37-7. (1) Subject to the provisions of Section
4597 99-19-20.1, when a defendant sentenced to pay a fine or to make
4598 restitution defaults in the payment thereof or of any installment,
4599 the court, on motion of the district attorney, or upon its own
4600 motion, may require him to show cause why his default should not
4601 be treated as contempt of court, and may issue a show cause
4602 citation or a warrant of arrest for his appearance. The warrant



of arrest shall be executed in compliance with Section 1 of this act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of Section 99-19-20.1, unless the defendant shows that his default was not attributable to an intentional refusal to obey the order of the court or to a failure on his part to make a good faith effort to make the payment, the court may find that his default constitutes contempt and may order him committed until the fine or the restitution, or a specified part thereof, is paid.

(3) A judicial officer shall not be held criminally or civilly liable for failure of any defendant to pay any fine or to make restitution if the officer exercises his judicial authority in accordance with subsections (1) and (2) of this section to require the payment of such fine or restitution.

(4) When a fine or an order of restitution is imposed on a corporation or unincorporated association, it is the duty of the person authorized to make disbursement from the assets of the corporation or association to pay the fine or make the restitution from those assets, and his failure to do so may be held to be contempt unless he makes the showing required in subsection (2) of this section.

SECTION 75. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2025.

