By: Representatives Harness, Jackson (45th)   To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 655

1   AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE COMPENSATION PAID TO A JUDGE APPOINTED COUNSEL FOR
3 INDIGENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5   **SECTION 1.** Section 99-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

6 amended as follows:

7   99-15-17. The compensation for counsel for indigents

8 appointed as provided in Section 99-15-15, shall be approved and

9 allowed by the appropriate judge and in any one (1) case may not

10 exceed *** * *** Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00) for representation

11 in circuit court whether on appeal or originating in said court.

12 Provided, however, if said case is not appealed to or does not

13 originate in a court of record, the maximum compensation shall not

14 exceed Two Hundred Dollars ($200.00) for any one (1) case, the

15 amount of such compensation to be approved by a judge of the

16 chancery court, county court or circuit court in the county where

17 the case arises. Provided, however, in a capital case two (2)

18 attorneys may be appointed, and the compensation may not

19 exceed *** * *** <u>Six Thousand Dollars ($6,000.00)</u> per case. If the

20 case is appealed to the state supreme court by counsel appointed

21 by the judge, the allowable fee for services on appeal shall not

22 exceed *** * *** <u>Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000.00)</u> per case. In

23 addition, the judge shall allow reimbursement of actual expenses.

24 The attorney or attorneys so appointed shall itemize the time

25 spent in defending said indigents together with an itemized

26 statement of expenses of such defense, and shall present same to

27 the appropriate judge. The fees and expenses as allowed by the

28 appropriate judge shall be paid by the county treasurer out of the

29 general fund of the county in which the prosecution was commenced.

30   **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

31 and after July 1, 2025.

H. B. No. 655 ||||||||||||||||||||||||||| **~ OFFICIAL ~**
25/HR43/R1061   ST: Public defenders; increase compensation for
PAGE 2 (GT\KP)   court appointed.