

By: Representative Karriem

To: Judiciary A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 741

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR FOR THE  
3 SIXTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal  
8 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,  
9 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state  
10 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior  
11 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to  
12 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a  
13 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be  
14 a state employee.

15 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court  
16 District \* \* \*, the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit  
17 Court District, and the District Attorney of the Sixteenth Circuit  
18 Court District, upon the approval of \* \* \* his or her boards of



19 supervisors, may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance  
20 coordinator for his or her district, subject to the approval of  
21 and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge of the  
22 applicable district for a total of two (2) victim assistance  
23 coordinators per district.

24 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to  
25 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a  
26 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians  
27 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance  
28 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement  
29 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in  
30 fulfilling that duty.

31 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall  
32 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in  
33 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties  
34 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a  
35 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit  
36 court judge.

37 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the  
38 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge  
39 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any  
40 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of  
41 this section, create the position of county victim assistance  
42 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator  
43 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the



44 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a  
45 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted  
46 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their  
47 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon  
48 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district  
49 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and  
50 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve  
51 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing  
52 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of  
53 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the  
54 municipality.

55 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or  
56 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is  
57 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance  
58 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and  
59 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes  
60 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued  
61 operation of the victim assistance program.

62 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
63 and after July 1, 2025.

