

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Simmons (12th)

To: County Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2450

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-7-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ALLOW FUNDS TO BE USED FOR ELECTRONIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PURPOSES
3 FOR ANY CHANCERY OR CIRCUIT COURTROOM IN THE COUNTY; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 19-7-31. (1) (a) The board of supervisors of each county
9 in the state shall have power, by an appropriate order or orders
10 on its minutes, to establish and maintain in the county courthouse
11 or other suitable public building adjacent or near thereto, a
12 public county law library under such rules, regulations and
13 supervision as it may from time to time ordain and establish, and
14 to that end, the board may accept gifts, grants, donations or
15 bequests of money, furniture, fixtures, books, documents, maps,
16 plats or other property suitable for that purpose.

17 (b) The board of supervisors shall have power to
18 exchange or sell duplicate volumes or sets of any such books or
19 furniture, and in case of sale, to invest the proceeds in other



suitable books or furniture. The board may also purchase or lease from time to time additional books, furniture, or equipment for the public law library.

(c) The board of supervisors may also maintain the books prescribed under this section in an electronic format.

(2) For the purpose of providing suitable quarters for the public law library, the board of supervisors may, in its discretion, expend such sums as may be deemed necessary or proper for that purpose, and may also employ a suitable person as librarian and pay the law librarian such salary as the board, in its discretion, may determine. The board may employ additional librarians or other employees on either a part-time or full-time basis and may pay these additional employees as the board, in its discretion, may determine. The board of supervisors, in their discretion, may contract with the county or municipal library for any staff or facilities as they deem necessary for the overall management and operation of the county law library. The board of supervisors may contract with the State Law Library for law library services that may be offered by the State Law Library.

(3) If the public law library is established, all books, documents, furniture and other property then belonging to the county library, as provided for in Section 19-7-25, shall be transferred to and become part of the public law library, and all books, documents and publications donated by the state to the county library shall also become a part of the public law library.



45 In that case, Sections 19-7-25 and 19-25-65, relating to the
46 county library, shall be superseded in that county for as long as
47 the public law library is maintained in the county.

48 (4) The board of supervisors of any county that establishes
49 a public law library, in its discretion, may levy, by way of
50 resolution, additional court costs not exceeding Two Dollars and
51 Fifty Cents (\$2.50) per case for each case, both civil and
52 criminal, filed in the chancery, circuit and county courts or any
53 of these in the county, and may levy, by way of resolution,
54 additional court costs not exceeding One Dollar and Fifty Cents
55 (\$1.50) per case for each case, both civil and criminal, filed in
56 the justice courts of the county, for the support of the library
57 authorized in the county. If the additional court costs
58 authorized in this section are levied, the clerk or judge of those
59 courts shall collect those costs for all cases filed in his court
60 and forward same to the chancery clerk, who shall deposit the same
61 in a special account in a county depository for support and
62 maintenance of the library, and the chancery clerk shall be
63 accountable for those funds. However, no such levy shall be made
64 against any cause of action the purpose of which is to commit any
65 person with mental illness, or alcoholic or narcotic addiction to
66 any institution for custodial or medical care, and no such tax
67 shall be collected under this subsection on any cause of action
68 that the proper clerk handling same deems to be in its very nature



69 charitable and in which cause the clerk has not collected his own
70 legal fees.

71 (5) To accomplish the purposes of this section, the board of
72 supervisors may enter into such arrangement or arrangements with
73 the county bar association of any such county as may seem
74 advisable for the care and operation of the law library, and the
75 board may receive and consider, from time to time, such
76 recommendations as the bar association may deem appropriate
77 regarding the library.

78 (6) The board of supervisors of each county in which there
79 are two (2) judicial districts, in its discretion, may maintain a
80 law library in each judicial district. In those counties the
81 board, in its discretion, may pay from the county general fund or
82 from the special fund authorized in this section all the costs
83 authorized in this section, provided that the board shall not
84 spend in each judicial district less than the amount of the
85 special court costs authorized in this section and collected in
86 each such district.

87 (7) The governing authorities of any municipality, in their
88 discretion, by resolution duly adopted and entered on their
89 official minutes, may levy additional court costs not exceeding
90 One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) per case for each conviction in
91 the municipal court of the municipality, for the support and
92 maintenance of the county law library in the county within which
93 the municipality is located. The additional costs shall be



collected by the clerk of the court, forwarded to the chancery clerk of the county for deposit in a special account in the county depository, and expended for support and maintenance of the county law library in the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure as provided for costs similarly collected in the chancery, circuit, county and justice courts of the county.

(8) Funds collected under this section may also be used for electronic and technological purposes related to the law library, including, but not limited to, computers, hardware, software, internet, online subscription services, legal research tools and electronic records.

(9) Funds collected under this section that are not needed for purposes related to the law library may be used for electronic and technological purposes for any chancery and/or circuit courtroom in the county, including, but not limited to, installing, repairing and/or improving audio systems, video systems, digital communications, recording of court proceedings, evidence display, assisted listening and technical infrastructure.

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

