

## House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2899

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

### AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14       **SECTION 1.** Section 9-13-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16       9-13-19. (1) Court reporters for circuit and chancery  
17 courts \* \* \* shall be paid an annual salary payable by the  
18 Administrative Office of Courts not to exceed \* \* \* Fifty-nine  
19 Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$59,400.00) for court reporters  
20 with five (5) years' experience or less; not to exceed \* \* \*  
21 Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$70,200.00) for court  
22 reporters who have more than five (5) years' experience but less  
23 than ten (10) years; and not to exceed \* \* \* Seventy-six Thousand  
24 Eight Hundred Dollars (\$76,800.00) for court reporters who have  
25 ten (10) years or more experience. No amount of the increase in  
26 the maximum salary authorized by this section shall be paid from  
27 the State General Fund. The board of supervisors of any county is  
28 authorized to pay its court reporters the applicable amount of the  
29 maximum salary authorized by this section. In addition, any court  
30 reporter performing the duties of a court administrator in the

31 same judicial district in which the person is employed as a court  
32 reporter may be paid additional compensation for performing the  
33 court administrator duties. The annual amount of the additional  
34 compensation shall be set by vote of the judges and chancellors  
35 for whom the court administrator duties are performed, with  
36 consideration given to the number of hours per month devoted by  
37 the court reporter to performing the duties of a court  
38 administrator. The additional compensation shall be submitted to  
39 the Administrative Office of Courts for approval.

40 (2) The several counties in each respective court district  
41 shall transfer from the general funds of those county treasuries  
42 to the Administrative Office of Courts a proportionate amount to  
43 be paid toward the annual compensation of the court reporter,  
44 including any additional compensation paid for the performance of  
45 court administrator duties. The amount to be paid by each county  
46 shall be determined by the number of weeks in which court is held  
47 in each county in proportion to the total number of weeks court is  
48 held in the district. For purposes of this section, the term  
49 "compensation" means the gross salary plus all amounts paid for  
50 benefits, or otherwise, as a result of employment or as required  
51 by employment, but does not include transcript fees otherwise  
52 authorized to be paid by or through the counties. However, only  
53 salary earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited  
54 for retirement purposes. Amounts paid for transcript fees,  
55 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel

56 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement  
57 purposes.

58 For example, if there are thirty-eight (38) scheduled court  
59 weeks in a particular district, a county in which court is  
60 scheduled five (5) weeks out of the year would have to pay  
61 five-thirty-eighths (5/38) of the total annual compensation.

62 (3) The salary and any additional compensation for the  
63 performance of court administrator duties shall be paid in twelve  
64 (12) installments on the last working day of each month after it  
65 has been duly authorized by the appointing judge or chancellor and  
66 an order duly placed on the minutes of the court. Each county  
67 shall transfer to the Administrative Office of Courts one-twelfth  
68 (1/12) of the amount required to be paid pursuant to subsection  
69 (2) of this section by the twentieth day of each month for the  
70 salary that is to be paid on the last working day of the month.  
71 The Administrative Office of Courts shall pay to the court  
72 reporter the total amount of salary due for that month. Any  
73 county may pay, in the discretion of the board of supervisors, by  
74 the twentieth day of January of any year, the amount due for a  
75 full twelve (12) months.

76 (4) From and after October 1, 1996, all circuit and chancery  
77 court reporters will be employees of the Administrative Office of  
78 Courts.

79 (5) No circuit or chancery court reporter shall be entitled  
80 to any compensation for any special or extended term of court  
81 after passage of this section.

82           (6) No chancery or circuit court reporter shall practice law  
83 in the court within which he or she is the court reporter.

84           (7) Notwithstanding the Rules and Regulations Governing  
85 Certified Court Reporters, an official court reporter may engage  
86 in freelance reporting activities as long as the matter at issue  
87 is not under the jurisdiction of the court in which the official  
88 court reporter is appointed. An official court reporter who does  
89 not have delinquent work from the court of appointment and whose  
90 attendance is not required in the court of appointment shall not  
91 be prohibited from engaging in freelance reporting activities as  
92 provided by this subsection. Travel expenses for freelance  
93 reporting activities nor any other expenses related to such  
94 activities shall be paid or otherwise reimbursed to any court  
95 reporter from the court, Administrative Office of Courts or  
96 governmental entity that employs the court reporter full time. No  
97 government owned equipment may be used at any time by any court  
98 reporter while engaging in freelance reporting activities.

99           ( \* \* \*8) For all travel required in the performance of  
100 official duties, the circuit or chancery court reporter shall be  
101 paid mileage by the county in which the duties were performed at  
102 the same rate as provided for state employees in Section 25-3-41.  
103 The court reporter shall file in the office of the clerk of the  
104 court which he serves a certificate of mileage expense incurred  
105 during that term and payment of such expense to the court reporter  
106 shall be paid on allowance by the judge of such court.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1           AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-13-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE COURT REPORTERS FOR CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURTS TO BE PAID  
3 AN ANNUAL SALARY; TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED ANNUAL SALARY FOR  
4 COURT REPORTERS; TO PROVIDE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE RULES AND  
5 REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, AN OFFICIAL COURT  
6 REPORTER MAY ENGAGE IN FREELANCE REPORTING ACTIVITIES AS LONG AS  
7 THE MATTER AT ISSUE IS NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT IN  
8 WHICH THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER IS APPOINTED; TO PROVIDE THAT AN  
9 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER WHO DOES NOT HAVE DELINQUENT WORK FROM THE  
10 COURT OF APPOINTMENT AND WHOSE ATTENDANCE IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE  
11 COURT OF APPOINTMENT SHALL NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM ENGAGING IN  
12 FREELANCE REPORTING ACTIVITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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Andrew Ketchings  
Clerk of the House of Representatives