

By: Compretta

To: County Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 174

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-25-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN WARDEN ASSISTANTS; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 19-25-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 19-25-13. The sheriff shall, at the July meeting of the
8 board of supervisors, submit a budget of estimated expenses of his
9 office for the ensuing fiscal year beginning October 1 in such
10 form as shall be prescribed by the Director of the State
11 Department of Audit. The board shall examine this proposed budget
12 and determine the amount to be expended by the sheriff in the
13 performance of his duties for the fiscal year and may increase or
14 reduce said amount as it deems necessary and proper.

15 The budget shall include amounts for compensating the
16 deputies and other employees of the sheriff's office, for
17 insurance providing protection for the sheriff and his deputies in
18 case of disability, death and other similar coverage, for travel
19 and transportation expenses of the sheriff and deputies, for
20 feeding prisoners and inmates of the county jail, and for such
21 other expenses as may be incurred in the performance of the duties
22 of the office of sheriff. In addition, the budget shall include
23 amounts for the payment of premiums on bonds and insurance for the
24 sheriff and his deputies which, in the opinion of the board of
25 supervisors, are deemed necessary to protect the interests of the
26 county or the sheriff and his deputies. Such amounts may include

27 official bonds and any bonds required of his deputies by the
28 sheriff; liability insurance; insurance against false arrest
29 charges; insurance against false imprisonment charges; theft, fire
30 and other hazards insurance; and hospitalization insurance as
31 provided for in Sections 25-15-101 and 25-15-103. The board may
32 authorize the reimbursement of the sheriff and deputies for the
33 use of privately owned automobiles or other motor vehicles in the
34 performance of official duties at the rate provided by law for
35 state officers and employees, or may authorize the purchase by the
36 sheriff of such motor vehicles and such equipment as may be needed
37 for operation of the sheriff's office, such vehicles and equipment
38 to be owned by the county. In counties which have elected to
39 purchase the motor vehicles and such equipment for the operation
40 of the sheriff's office, if a sheriff or deputy shall be required
41 in the performance of his official duties, in the event of an
42 emergency, to use his privately owned automobile or other motor
43 vehicle, the board of supervisors may, in its discretion,
44 authorize the reimbursement for such use at the rate per mile
45 provided by law for state officers and employees. This shall not
46 be construed as giving an officer a choice of whether to use his
47 own or the county's vehicle, but shall be construed so as not to
48 penalize an officer who must use his own vehicle because the
49 county's vehicle was not available.

50 The board of supervisors may acquire one or more credit cards
51 which may be used by the sheriff and his deputies to pay expenses
52 incurred by them when traveling in or out of state in the
53 performance of their official duties. The chancery clerk or
54 county purchase clerk shall maintain complete records of all
55 credit card numbers and all receipts and other documents relating
56 to the use of such credit cards. The sheriff shall furnish
57 receipts for the use of such credit cards each month to the
58 chancery clerk or purchase clerk who shall submit a written report
59 monthly to the board of supervisors, which report shall include an
60 itemized list of all expenditures and use of the credit cards for
61 the month, and such expenditures may be allowed for payment by the
62 county in the same manner as other items on the claims docket.
63 The issuance of a credit card to a sheriff or his deputy under the

provisions of this section shall not be construed to authorize such sheriff or deputy sheriff to use such credit card to make any expenditure which is not otherwise authorized by law.

The board of supervisors is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to appropriate and pay a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) annually as a clothing allowance to each plainclothes investigator employed by the sheriff's office of such county. The board of supervisors of any county bordering on the Gulf of Mexico and having a population of more than thirty-one thousand seven hundred (31,700) but less than thirty-one thousand eight hundred (31,800) according to the 1990 Federal Census may appropriate and pay a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) annually as a clothing allowance to the warden of the county jail and a sum not to exceed Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) annually as a clothing allowance to the warden's assistant of the county jail.

The board of supervisors shall, at its first meeting of each quarter beginning on October 1, January 1, April 1 and July 1, appropriate a lump sum for the sheriff for the expenses of his office during the current quarter. The quarterly appropriation shall be one-fourth (1/4) of the amount approved in the annual budget unless the sheriff requests a different amount. Except in case of emergency, as provided in the county budget law, the appropriation for the quarter beginning in October of the last year of the sheriff's term shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) of the annual budget.

The sheriff shall file a report of all expenses of his office incurred during the preceding month with the board of supervisors for approval at its regular monthly meeting in a form to be prescribed by the Director of the State Department of Audit, and upon filing thereof, and approval by the board, the clerk of the board shall issue warrants in payment thereof but not to exceed the budget appropriation for that quarter. Any appropriated funds

97 which are unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in
98 the county general fund.

99 The budget for the sheriff's office may be revised at any
100 regular meeting by the board of supervisors. Upon recommendation
101 of the sheriff, the board may at any regular meeting make
102 supplemental appropriations to the sheriff's office.

103 Any fees previously required to be paid by a sheriff shall be
104 paid by the board of supervisors by including the estimates
105 therefor in the sheriff's budget. All fees and charges for
106 services heretofore collected by sheriffs shall be collected by
107 said sheriff and paid monthly into the general fund of the
108 concerned county. However, any fees heretofore collected by such
109 sheriffs from the county shall not be paid.

110 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after July 1, 2000.