

By: Jackson

To: Juvenile Justice

SENATE BILL NO. 2111
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON GANG BEHAVIOR IN
2 MISSISSIPPI TO COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
3 TO STUDY, TRACK, IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR DEALING WITH
4 GANGS AND DEVIANT GROUPS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
5 MEMBERS TO THE TASK FORCE AND SPECIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
6 TASK FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OF THE TASK
7 FORCE UNDER THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Task Force on Gang
11 Behavior in Mississippi, the purpose of which is to coordinate the
12 efforts of law enforcement agencies in the state to study, track,
13 identify and develop strategies for dealing with gangs and deviant
14 groups and individuals.

15 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following voting
16 members: the Director of the Bureau of Narcotics, or his
17 designee; the Commissioner of Public Safety, or his designee; the
18 chief drug investigator for the Mississippi Department of
19 Corrections; the Attorney General, or his designee; the State
20 Superintendent of Education, or his designee; the President of the
21 Mississippi Sheriffs' Association, or his designee; the President
22 of the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police, or his
23 designee; the President of the Mississippi Constables'
24 Association, or his designee; the Adjutant General of the
25 Mississippi National Guard, or his designee; the Director of the
26 Office of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services, or
27 his designee; a designee of the Mississippi Chapter of the
28 National Organization of Black Law Enforcement; a designee of the
29 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; an

30 appointee of the Speaker of the House and an appointee of the
31 Lieutenant Governor, both of whom shall be chosen from experts in
32 criminal justice and gang activity, and who shall serve as co-vice
33 chairmen of the task force; and an appointee of the Governor who
34 is an expert in criminal justice and gang activity, who shall
35 serve as chairman of the task force.

36 (3) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Committees on
37 Juvenile Justice, Judiciary (Judiciary En Banc), Corrections and
38 Education, or their designees, shall serve in an advisory capacity
39 as ex officio nonvoting members of the task force.

40 (4) The Chairman of the Task Force on Gang Behavior shall be
41 appointed annually by the Governor, who shall call the initial
42 meeting of the task force. The task force shall adopt bylaws and
43 rules for its efficient operation, which may include designation
44 of its organizational structure including other officers and
45 committees, duties of committees, staff policies and other such
46 procedures as may be necessary.

47 (5) The task force shall be assigned to the Mississippi
48 Department of Public Safety for administrative purposes only, and
49 the department shall designate staff to assist the task force.
50 The task force shall have a line item in the budget of the
51 Department of Public Safety, shall be financed through the
52 department's annual appropriation wherein funds are made available
53 and shall be subject to Department of Public Safety policies and
54 procedures. Members of the task force may receive, within the
55 funds appropriated, reimbursement for travel expenses incurred
56 while engaged in official business of the task force, except that
57 the legislative members shall be paid from the contingent expense
58 funds of their respective houses.

59 (6) The task force shall meet and conduct business at least
60 quarterly. All meetings of the task force and any committees of
61 the task force shall be open to the public, with opportunities for
62 public comment.

63 (7) The task force may apply for and expend grants or other
64 contributions for the purpose of studying and tracking gang and
65 deviant activity in Mississippi.

66 (8) The Task Force on Gang Behavior in Mississippi shall

67 have the following responsibilities:

68 (a) Serve as a liaison with the appropriate local law
69 enforcement agencies, public school officials, human services
70 officials, youth court personnel and correctional officials to
71 track, study, identify and develop strategies for the prevention,
72 identification and suppression of illegal gang and deviant groups.

73 (b) Serve an advocacy and public awareness role with
74 the general public regarding illegal gang and deviant group
75 behavior.

76 (c) Recommend and make annual reports to the
77 Legislature and Governor regarding appropriate policies to reduce
78 illegal and deviant gang activity in Mississippi.

79 (d) Consult with experts and examine actions taken in
80 other states regarding illegal gang activity.

81 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
82 and after July 1, 2000, subject to the availability of funds
83 specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature during the
84 2000 Regular Session or any subsequent session. It is the intent
85 of the Legislature that this act shall not take effect until the
86 Legislature has funded the implementation thereof by line item
87 appropriation as certified to the Secretary of State by the
88 Legislative Budget Office.