

By: Representatives Clarke, Bowles,
Frierson, Horne, Stevens

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 900

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-13-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 MAKE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THE STATE BOND ATTORNEY; TO REQUIRE THAT
3 ALL ATTORNEYS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS PERFORMING LEGAL SERVICES
4 FOR THE STATE AND ITS GOVERNING AUTHORITIES RELATIVE TO THE
5 ISSUANCE OF BONDS ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OUTLINING THE SERVICES THEY
6 ARE TO RENDER; TO REQUIRE SUCH ATTORNEYS TO PROVIDE ITEMIZED
7 STATEMENTS OF SERVICES RENDERED FOR FEES; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 31-13-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 31-13-1. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
13 shall be the State Bond Attorney and whose duties in that capacity
14 shall be those hereinafter specified.

15 **SECTION 2.** When hiring attorneys and other professionals to
16 perform legal, financial or other services associated with the
17 issuance of bonds, whose opinions are necessary to satisfy bond
18 buyers or whose assistance will assist in promoting the
19 marketability of bonds, the State of Mississippi, and its agencies
20 and governing authorities, as defined in Section 31-7-1, shall
21 require that each such attorney and professional enter into a
22 professional service contract which clearly sets out the scope and
23 elements of work to be performed for the state, the agency or the
24 governing authority. Before the state, or an agency or governing
25 authority, may pay an attorney or other professional for services
26 associated with the issuance of bonds, the attorney or
27 professional who is a party to such a contract shall provide the
28 state, the agency or the governing authority with an itemized
29 statement of services rendered. Such statement shall clearly show
30 the hours of work performed and the fee chargeable for the work



31 performed. This requirement shall apply to all professional
32 service contracts regardless of whether the terms of the contract
33 call for the payment of a percentage of the amount of the bonds
34 issued.

35 **SECTION 3.** The provisions of Section 2 of this act shall be
36 codified in Chapter 13, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

37 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2002.

