

By: Representative Beckett

To: Appropriations;
Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1280

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-1-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI CRIME LABORATORY MAY NOT CHARGE FEES
3 FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY IT TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF ANY
4 MUNICIPALITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-1-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 45-1-29. (1) The Mississippi Crime Laboratory shall be
9 funded separately from the Department of Public Safety. Any
10 appropriated funds shall be maintained in an account separate from
11 any funds of the Department of Public Safety and shall never be
12 commingled with any funds of said department. However, nothing in
13 this section shall be construed to prohibit the utilization of the
14 combined resources of the Mississippi Crime Laboratory, the
15 Division of Support Services of the Department of Public Safety or
16 the Mississippi Justice Information Center to efficiently carry
17 out the mission of the Department of Public Safety.

18 (2) Grants and donations to the crime laboratory may be
19 accepted from individuals, the federal government, firms,
20 corporations, foundations and other interested organizations and
21 societies.

22 (3) (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), the
23 Commissioner of Public Safety shall establish and the Division of
24 Support Services of the Department of Public Safety shall collect
25 for services rendered proper fees commensurate with the services
26 rendered by the crime laboratory. Those fees shall be deposited
27 into a special fund in the State Treasury to the credit of the
28 crime laboratory and expended in accordance with applicable rules

29 and regulations of the Department of Finance and Administration.
30 Those fees may be used for any authorized expenditure of the crime
31 laboratory except expenditures for salaries, wages and fringe
32 benefits.

33 (b) No fees may be collected for any services rendered
34 by the crime laboratory to any law enforcement department or
35 office of any municipality.

36 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 2005.