

By: Senator(s) Ross, Dawkins, Harden,  
Jackson (11th), Williamson

To: Judiciary, Division A;  
Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2960

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF INDIGENT APPEALS;  
2 TO PROVIDE A DIRECTOR AND STAFF; TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION; TO  
3 PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE  
4 OF INDIGENT APPEALS OFFICE FUND AND PROVIDE FOR ITS  
5 ADMINISTRATION; TO AMEND SECTION 99-18-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
6 1972, TO REVISE THE SPECIAL FUND KNOWN AS THE CAPITAL DEFENSE  
7 COUNSEL FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 99-39-117, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
8 1972, TO REVISE THE SPECIAL FUND KNOWN AS THE CAPITAL  
9 POST-CONVICTION COUNSEL FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-117,  
10 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE SPECIAL FUND KNOWN AS THE  
11 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-73,  
12 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FUNDS;  
13 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Office of  
16 Indigent Appeals. This office shall consist of six (6) attorneys,  
17 two (2) secretaries/paralegals and one (1) financial assistant.  
18 One (1) of the attorneys shall serve as director of the office.  
19 The director shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve  
20 for a term of four (4) years. The remaining attorneys and other  
21 staff shall be appointed by the director and shall serve at the  
22 will and pleasure of the director. The director and all other  
23 attorneys in the office shall either be active members of The  
24 Mississippi Bar, or, if a member in good standing of the bar of  
25 another jurisdiction, must apply to and secure admission to The  
26 Mississippi Bar within twelve (12) months of the commencement of  
27 the person's employment by the office. The attorneys in the  
28 office shall practice law exclusively for the office and shall not  
29 engage in any other practice. The office shall not engage in any  
30 litigation other than that related to the office. The salary for  
31 the director shall be equivalent to the salary of district

32 attorneys and the salary of the other attorneys in the office  
33 shall be equivalent to the salary of assistant district attorney.

34 (2) The office shall provide representation on appeal for  
35 indigent persons convicted of felonies but not under sentences of  
36 death. Representation shall be provided by staff attorneys, or,  
37 in the case of conflict or excessive workload, by attorneys  
38 selected, employed and compensated by the office on a contract  
39 basis. All fees charged by contract counsel and expenses incurred  
40 by attorneys in the office and contract counsel must be approved  
41 by the court. The office shall provide advice, education and  
42 support to attorneys representing persons under felony charges in  
43 the trial courts.

44 (3) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
45 be known as the Indigent Appeals Fund. The purpose of the fund  
46 shall be to provide funding for the Mississippi Office of Indigent  
47 Appeals. Monies from the funds derived from assessments under  
48 Section 99-19-73 shall be distributed by the State Treasurer upon  
49 warrants issued by the Mississippi Office of Indigent Appeals.  
50 The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal-year  
51 limitations, and shall consist of:

- 52 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature for the  
53 purposes of funding the Office of Indigent Appeals;
- 54 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;
- 55 (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section  
56 99-19-73;
- 57 (d) Monies received from the federal government;
- 58 (e) Donations; and
- 59 (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
60 provided by law.

61 **SECTION 2.** Section 99-18-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
62 amended as follows:

63 99-18-17. (1) If at any time during the representation of  
64 two (2) or more defendants, the director determines that the

65 interests of those persons are so adverse or hostile they cannot  
66 all be represented by the director or his staff without conflict  
67 of interest, or if the director shall determine that the volume or  
68 number of representations shall so require, the director in his  
69 sole discretion, notwithstanding any statute or regulation to the  
70 contrary, shall be authorized to employ qualified private counsel.  
71 Fees and expenses approved by order of the court of original  
72 jurisdiction, including investigative and expert witness expenses  
73 of such private counsel, shall be paid by funds appropriated to  
74 the Capital Defense Counsel \* \* \* Fund for this purpose \* \* \*.

75 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
76 be known as the Capital Defense Counsel Fund. The purpose of the  
77 fund shall be to provide funding for the Office of Capital Defense  
78 Counsel. Monies from the funds derived from assessments under  
79 Section 99-19-73 shall be distributed by the State Treasurer upon  
80 warrants issued by the Mississippi Office of Capital Defense  
81 Counsel. The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject to  
82 fiscal-year limitations, and shall consist of:

83 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature for the  
84 purposes of funding the Office of Capital Defense Counsel;

85 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;

86 (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section  
87 99-19-73;

88 (d) Monies received from the federal government;

89 (e) Donations; and

90 (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
91 provided by law.

92 **SECTION 3.** Section 99-39-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
93 amended as follows:

94 99-39-117. (1) If at any time during the representation of  
95 two (2) or more defendants, the director determines that the  
96 interest of those persons are so adverse or hostile that they  
97 cannot all be represented by the director or his staff without

98 conflict of interest, or if the director shall determine that the  
99 volume or number of representations shall so require, the  
100 director, in his sole discretion, notwithstanding any statute or  
101 regulation to the contrary, shall be authorized to employ  
102 qualified private counsel. Fees and expenses, approved by order  
103 of the appropriate court, including investigative and expert  
104 witness expenses of such private counsel shall be paid from funds  
105 appropriated to the \* \* \* Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund for  
106 this purpose \* \* \*.

107 (2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
108 be known as the Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund. The purpose  
109 of the fund shall be to provide funding for the Office of Capital  
110 Post-Conviction Counsel. Monies from the funds derived from  
111 assessments under Section 99-19-73 shall be distributed by the  
112 State Treasurer upon warrants issued by the Mississippi Office of  
113 Capital Post-Conviction Counsel. The fund shall be a continuing  
114 fund, not subject to fiscal-year limitations, and shall consist  
115 of:

116 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature for the  
117 purposes of funding the Office of Capital Post-Conviction Counsel;

118 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;

119 (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section  
120 99-19-73;

121 (d) Monies received from the federal government;

122 (e) Donations; and

123 (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
124 provided by law.

125 **SECTION 4.** Section 93-21-117, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
126 amended as follows:

127 93-21-117. (1) There is hereby created in the State  
128 Treasury a special fund to be known as the "Victims of Domestic  
129 Violence Fund." The fund shall be a continuing fund, not subject  
130 to fiscal-year limitations, and shall consist of:

131           (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature;  
132           (b) The interest accruing to the fund;  
133           (c) Monies received under the provisions of Section  
134 99-19-73;  
135           (d) Monies received from the federal government;  
136           (e) Donations; and  
137           (f) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
138 provided by law.

139           (2) The circuit clerks of the state shall deposit in the  
140 fund on a monthly basis the additional fee charged and collected  
141 for marriage licenses under the provisions of Section 25-7-13,  
142 Mississippi Code of 1972.

143           (3) \* \* \* All other monies received from every source for  
144 the support of the program for victims of domestic violence,  
145 established by Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113, shall be  
146 deposited in the "Victims of Domestic Violence Fund." The monies  
147 in the fund shall be used by the State Department of Health solely  
148 for funding and administering domestic violence shelters under the  
149 provisions of Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113, in such  
150 amounts as the Legislature may appropriate to the department for  
151 the program for victims of domestic violence established by  
152 Sections 93-21-101 through 93-21-113. Not more than ten percent  
153 (10%) of the monies in the "Victims of Domestic Violence Fund"  
154 shall be appropriated to the State Department of Health for the  
155 administration of domestic violence shelters.

156           **SECTION 5.** Section 99-19-73, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
157 amended as follows:

158           99-19-73. (1) **Traffic violations.** In addition to any  
159 monetary penalties and any other penalties imposed by law, there  
160 shall be imposed and collected the following state assessment from  
161 each person upon whom a court imposes a fine or other penalty for  
162 any violation in Title 63, Mississippi Code of 1972, except  
163 offenses relating to the Mississippi Implied Consent Law (Section

164 63-11-1 et seq.) and offenses relating to vehicular parking or  
 165 registration:

166 FUND	AMOUNT
167 State Court Education Fund.....	\$ 1.50
168 State Prosecutor Education Fund.....	1.00
169 Driver Training Penalty Assessment Fund.....	7.00
170 Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....	5.00
171 Spinal Cord and Head Injury Trust Fund	
172 (for all moving violations).....	4.00
173 Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund.....	10.00
174 Mississippi Leadership Council on Aging Fund.....	1.00
175 Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death	
176 Benefits Trust Fund.....	.50
177 State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
178 of providing additional compensation for legal	
179 assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
180 Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
181 Drug Court Fund.....	10.00
182 <u>Capital Defense Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>1.89</u>
183 <u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
184 <u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
185 <u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
186 TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	\$ <u>58.00</u>

187 (2) **Implied Consent Law violations.** In addition to any  
 188 monetary penalties and any other penalties imposed by law, there  
 189 shall be imposed and collected the following state assessment from  
 190 each person upon whom a court imposes a fine or any other penalty  
 191 for any violation of the Mississippi Implied Consent Law (Section  
 192 63-11-1 et seq.):

193 FUND	AMOUNT
194 Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.....	\$ 10.00
195 State Court Education Fund.....	1.50
196 State Prosecutor Education Fund.....	1.00

197	Driver Training Penalty Assessment Fund.....	22.00
198	Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....	11.00
199	Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund.....	10.00
200	Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program Fund...	5.00
201	Federal-State Alcohol Program Fund.....	10.00
202	Mississippi Crime Laboratory	
203	Implied Consent Law Fund.....	25.00
204	Spinal Cord and Head Injury Trust Fund.....	25.00
205	Capital Defense Counsel * * * Fund.....	<u>1.89</u>
206	<u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
207	<u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
208	<u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
209	State General Fund.....	35.00
210	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death	
211	Benefits Trust Fund.....	.50
212	State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
213	of providing additional compensation for legal	
214	assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
215	Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
216	Drug Court Fund.....	10.00
217	TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	\$ <u>184.00</u>

218       (3) **Game and Fish Law violations.** In addition to any  
219 monetary penalties and any other penalties imposed by law, there  
220 shall be imposed and collected the following state assessment from  
221 each person upon whom a court imposes a fine or other penalty for  
222 any violation of the game and fish statutes or regulations of this  
223 state:

224	FUND	AMOUNT
225	State Court Education Fund.....	\$ 1.50
226	State Prosecutor Education Fund.....	1.00
227	Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....	5.00
228	Hunter Education and Training Program Fund.....	5.00
229	State General Fund.....	30.00

230	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death	
231	Benefits Trust Fund.....	.50
232	State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
233	of providing additional compensation for legal	
234	assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
235	Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
236	Drug Court Fund.....	10.00
237	<u>Capital Defense Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>1.89</u>
238	<u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
239	<u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
240	<u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
241	TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	\$ <u>71.00</u>

242       (4) **Litter Law violations.** In addition to any monetary  
243 penalties and any other penalties imposed by law, there shall be  
244 imposed and collected the following state assessment from each  
245 person upon whom a court imposes a fine or other penalty for any  
246 violation of Section 97-15-29 or 97-15-30:

247	FUND	AMOUNT
248	Statewide Litter Prevention Fund.....	\$ 25.00
249	State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
250	of providing additional compensation for legal	
251	assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
252	Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
253	Drug Court Fund.....	10.00
254	<u>Capital Defense Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>1.89</u>
255	<u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
256	<u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
257	<u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
258	TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	\$ <u>53.00</u>

259       (5) **Other misdemeanors.** In addition to any monetary  
260 penalties and any other penalties imposed by law, there shall be  
261 imposed and collected the following state assessment from each  
262 person upon whom a court imposes a fine or other penalty for any

263 misdemeanor violation not specified in subsection (1), (2) or (3)  
 264 of this section, except offenses relating to vehicular parking or  
 265 registration:

266 FUND	AMOUNT
267 Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.....	\$ 10.00
268 State Court Education Fund.....	1.50
269 State Prosecutor Education Fund.....	1.00
270 Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....	5.00
271 Capital Defense Counsel * * * Fund.....	<u>1.89</u>
272 <u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
273 <u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
274 <u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
275 State General Fund.....	30.00
276 State Crime Stoppers Fund.....	1.50
277 Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death	
278 Benefits Trust Fund.....	.50
279 State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
280 of providing additional compensation for legal	
281 assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
282 Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
283 Drug Court Fund.....	8.00
284 Judicial Performance Fund.....	2.00
285 TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	\$ <u>77.50</u>

286 (6) **Other felonies.** In addition to any monetary penalties  
 287 and any other penalties imposed by law, there shall be imposed and  
 288 collected the following state assessment from each person upon  
 289 whom a court imposes a fine or other penalty for any felony  
 290 violation not specified in subsection (1), (2) or (3) of this  
 291 section:

292 FUND	AMOUNT
293 Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.....	\$ 10.00
294 State Court Education Fund.....	1.50
295 State Prosecutor Education Fund.....	1.00

296	Law Enforcement Officers Training Fund.....	5.00
297	Capital Defense Counsel * * * Fund.....	<u>1.89</u>
298	<u>Indigent Appeals Fund</u> .....	<u>2.29</u>
299	<u>Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Fund</u> .....	<u>2.33</u>
300	<u>Victims of Domestic Violence Fund</u> .....	<u>.49</u>
301	State General Fund.....	60.00
302	Criminal Justice Fund.....	50.00
303	Law Enforcement Officers and Fire Fighters Death	
304	Benefits Trust Fund.....	.50
305	State Prosecutor Compensation Fund for the purpose	
306	of providing additional compensation for legal	
307	assistants to district attorneys.....	1.00
308	Crisis Intervention Mental Health Fund.....	10.00
309	Drug Court Fund.....	10.00
310	TOTAL STATE ASSESSMENT.....	<u>\$156.00</u>

311       (7) If a fine or other penalty imposed is suspended, in  
312 whole or in part, such suspension shall not affect the state  
313 assessment under this section. No state assessment imposed under  
314 the provisions of this section may be suspended or reduced by the  
315 court.

316       (8) After a determination by the court of the amount due, it  
317 shall be the duty of the clerk of the court to promptly collect  
318 all state assessments imposed under the provisions of this  
319 section. The state assessments imposed under the provisions of  
320 this section may not be paid by personal check. It shall be the  
321 duty of the chancery clerk of each county to deposit all such  
322 state assessments collected in the circuit, county and justice  
323 courts in such county on a monthly basis with the State Treasurer  
324 pursuant to appropriate procedures established by the State  
325 Auditor. The chancery clerk shall make a monthly lump-sum deposit  
326 of the total state assessments collected in the circuit, county  
327 and justice courts in such county under this section, and shall  
328 report to the Department of Finance and Administration the total

329 number of violations under each subsection for which state  
330 assessments were collected in the circuit, county and justice  
331 courts in such county during such month. It shall be the duty of  
332 the municipal clerk of each municipality to deposit all such state  
333 assessments collected in the municipal court in such municipality  
334 on a monthly basis with the State Treasurer pursuant to  
335 appropriate procedures established by the State Auditor. The  
336 municipal clerk shall make a monthly lump-sum deposit of the total  
337 state assessments collected in the municipal court in such  
338 municipality under this section, and shall report to the  
339 Department of Finance and Administration the total number of  
340 violations under each subsection for which state assessments were  
341 collected in the municipal court in such municipality during such  
342 month.

343 (9) It shall be the duty of the Department of Finance and  
344 Administration to deposit on a monthly basis all such state  
345 assessments into the proper special fund in the State Treasury.  
346 The monthly deposit shall be based upon the number of violations  
347 reported under each subsection and the pro rata amount of such  
348 assessment due to the appropriate special fund. The Department of  
349 Finance and Administration shall issue regulations providing for  
350 the proper allocation of these special funds.

351 (10) The State Auditor shall establish by regulation  
352 procedures for refunds of state assessments, including refunds  
353 associated with assessments imposed before July 1, 1990, and  
354 refunds after appeals in which the defendant's conviction is  
355 reversed. The Auditor shall provide in such regulations for  
356 certification of eligibility for refunds and may require the  
357 defendant seeking a refund to submit a verified copy of a court  
358 order or abstract by which such defendant is entitled to a refund.  
359 All refunds of state assessments shall be made in accordance with  
360 the procedures established by the Auditor.

361           **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
362 and after July 1, 2005.