

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 805

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-3-27 AND 9-4-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE
2 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE SALARY LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN SUPPORT STAFF
3 MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-3-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 9-3-27. (1) The Justices of the Supreme Court are
9 authorized and empowered to employ such number of secretaries,
10 legal research assistants and other support staff as the court may
11 deem necessary for its efficient operation, provided, that legal
12 research assistants * * * shall be qualified members of The
13 Mississippi * * * Bar, or qualified for admission thereto * * *.
14 They shall each receive a salary to be fixed by the Justices of
15 the Supreme Court, through an order entered on the minutes of the
16 court, within the appropriation for the payment of * * * salaries
17 in the Supreme Court. The salaries of the legal research
18 assistants shall not exceed the salary of a district attorney, as
19 set forth in Section 25-3-35, as follows:

20 (a) Director, central legal staff, a salary not to
21 exceed the salary of a district attorney.

22 (b) Editor of Supreme Court Opinions, a salary not to
23 exceed the salary of a district attorney.

24 (c) Senior staff attorney with fifteen (15) years or
25 more experience, a salary not to exceed ninety percent (90%) of
26 the salary of a district attorney.

27 (d) Senior staff attorney with eight (8) to fifteen
28 (15) years of experience, a salary not to exceed eighty-five
29 percent (85%) of the salary of a district attorney.

30 (e) Senior staff attorney with four (4) to eight (8)
31 years of experience, a salary not to exceed eighty percent (80%)
32 of the salary of a district attorney.

33 (f) Law clerk with four (4) to eight (8) years of
34 experience, a salary not to exceed sixty percent (60%) of the
35 salary of a district attorney.

36 (g) Law clerk with less than four (4) years of
37 experience, a salary not to exceed fifty-five percent (55%) of the
38 salary of a district attorney.

39 (2) Support staff members, upon entering into the discharge
40 of their duties, shall take an oath to be administered by one of
41 the justices of the court that they will faithfully discharge the
42 duties of said office and that they will not disclose the secrets
43 or deliberations of the court, and they shall be removed at the
44 pleasure of the court. The support staff members shall be paid on
45 a certificate by the Chief Justice or by a justice appointed by
46 the Chief Justice to so act to the auditor of public accounts, who
47 shall issue a warrant for the amount or amounts so certified to
48 the state treasurer.

49 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-4-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
50 amended as follows:

51 9-4-13. (1) The judges of the Court of Appeals shall
52 receive salaries as provided * * * in Section 25-3-35, shall be
53 reimbursed for mileage expenses incurred in performing their
54 duties at the rate authorized by law for public officials and
55 employees as provided * * * in Section 25-3-41, and shall receive
56 an expense allowance as provided * * * in Section 25-3-43.

57 (2) Staff attorneys, senior staff attorneys, law clerks and
58 all other employees of the Court of Appeals shall be of the same

59 grade classification and bear the same salary restrictions as
60 Supreme Court employees performing the same or similar duties.

61 **SECTION 3.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
62 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
63 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
64 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
65 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
66 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
67 extended.

68 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
70 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.