

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Judiciary, Division A;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2149

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANTS TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
3 AUTHORIZED IN THE FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal  
9 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court  
10 districts:

11 (a) First Circuit Court District..... eight (8)  
12 legal assistants.

13 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... nine (9)  
14 legal assistants.

15 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
16 legal assistants.

17 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
18 legal assistants.

19 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
20 legal assistants.

21 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
22 legal assistants.

23 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... ten (10)  
24 legal assistants.

25 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
26 legal assistants.

27 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
28 legal assistants.

29                   (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....           four (4)  
30 legal assistants.

31                   (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....           five (5)  
32 legal assistants.

33                   (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....           three (3)  
34 legal assistants.

35                   (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....           two (2)  
36 legal assistants.

37                   (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....           four (4)  
38 legal assistants.

39                   (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....           five (5)  
40 legal assistants.

41                   (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....           four (4)  
42 legal assistants.

43                   (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District....           six (6)  
44 legal assistants.

45                   (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....           two (2)  
46 legal assistants.

47                   (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....           four (4)  
48 legal assistants.

49                   (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....           four (4)  
50 legal assistants.

51                   (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District...           two (2)  
52 legal assistants.

53                   (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..           two (2)  
54 legal assistants.

55           (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant  
56 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of  
57 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following  
58 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the  
59 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe  
60 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following  
61 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one

62 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a  
63 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses  
64 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such  
65 district pursuant to this subsection:

66 (a) First Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
67 legal assistants.

68 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
69 legal assistants.

70 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
71 legal assistants.

72 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
73 legal assistants.

74 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
75 legal assistants.

76 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
77 legal assistants.

78 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
79 legal assistants.

80 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
81 legal assistants.

82 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
83 legal assistants.

84 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
85 legal assistants.

86 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
87 legal assistants.

88 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
89 legal assistants.

90 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
91 legal assistants.

92 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
93 legal assistants.

94 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

95 legal assistants.

96           (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

97 legal assistants.

98           (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

99 legal assistants.

100           (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

101 legal assistants.

102           (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

103 legal assistants.

104           (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

105 legal assistants.

106           (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.... two (2)

107 legal assistants.

108           (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District... two (2)

109 legal assistants.

110           (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a

111 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits

112 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the

113 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to

114 this section.

115           (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may

116 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or

117 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal

118 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators

119 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the

120 district attorney's office receives federal funds which may be

121 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of

122 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the

123 positions. Such funds shall be transferred by the district

124 attorney to the Department of Finance and Administration, which

125 shall disburse the funds to such employees in the same manner as

126 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal

127 assistants.

128           **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
129 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
130 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
131 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
132 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
133 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
134 extended.

135           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
136 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
137 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.