

By: Senator(s) Ross, Burton, Dearing

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2567
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE JUSTICE COURT
2 SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a task force to study and
5 assess the duties and services provided by the justice court
6 judges, the training and compensation of justice court judges, the
7 jurisdictional limits of justice courts, uniform rules of
8 procedure for justice courts, whether jury trials should occur in
9 justice courts, when justice court judges are elected, the manner
10 in which justice court judges are elected and the feasibility of
11 nonpartisan elections for justice court judges.

12 (2) The task force shall be composed of the following
13 members:

14 (a) One (1) appellate judge appointed by the Chief
15 Justice of the Supreme Court, who shall chair the committee.

16 (b) Three (3) justice court judges appointed by the
17 Conference of Justice Court Judges.

18 (c) Two (2) circuit court clerks appointed by the
19 Circuit Clerks Association.

20 (d) One (1) circuit judge appointed by the Conference
21 of Circuit Judges.

22 (e) One (1) county court judge appointed by the
23 Conference of County Court Judges.

24 (f) One (1) supervisor appointed by the Mississippi
25 Association of Supervisors.

26 (g) The Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee,
27 Division A, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary

28 A Committee, the Chairman of the Senate Elections Committee and
29 the Chairman of the House Apportionment and Elections Committee,
30 or their designees, shall serve as legislative liaisons and
31 nonvoting members.

32 (3) The member of the task force who is appointed by the
33 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as chairman of the
34 task force. The task force shall meet at the call of the chairman
35 and at its first meeting shall select a vice chairman from among
36 its membership. The vice chairman shall also serve as secretary
37 of the task force and shall be responsible for keeping all records
38 of the task force. A majority of the members of the task force
39 shall constitute a quorum.

40 (4) The task force shall file a report with the Clerk of the
41 House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate
42 containing its findings and recommendations regarding the justice
43 court system by not later than December 1, 2007.

44 (5) Legislative members of the committee shall receive per
45 diem, travel or other expenses, if authorized by the Management
46 Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, from
47 the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in the
48 same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the
49 Legislature is not in session; provided that no per diem or
50 expense for attending meetings of the committee shall be paid
51 while the Legislature is in session.

52 (6) Nonlegislative members of the task force shall receive
53 no compensation for their service on the task force but may be
54 reimbursed for expenses related to their service on the task force
55 as authorized by law.

56 (7) The task force shall be dissolved on December 1, 2007.

57 **SECTION 2.** A constable that serves as a bailiff in justice
58 court for criminal cases may be paid by the county in an amount
59 equal to the allowance paid to riding bailiffs as provided in

60 Section 19-25-31. This section shall stand repealed on January 1,
61 2009.

62 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
63 and after its passage.