

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2179: Department of Public Safety; revise certain provisions related to.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

18 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:

20 45-1-3. (1) When not otherwise specifically provided, the
21 commissioner is authorized to make and promulgate reasonable rules
22 and regulations to be coordinated, and carry out the general
23 provisions of the Highway Safety Patrol and Driver's License Law
24 of 1938.

25 (2) The commissioner shall have the authority to administer
26 oaths.

27 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with written
28 approval from the Executive Director of the Department of Finance
29 and Administration, the commissioner may enter into a lease or
30 sublease agreement for space in the Department of Public Safety
31 headquarters building with a third party for the purpose of



32 providing services and assistance to the department and its
33 employees. The proceeds received from the lease under this
34 subsection shall be paid to the State Treasurer for deposit into
35 the General Fund.

36 **SECTION 2.** Section 45-3-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
37 amended as follows:

38 45-3-51. * * * Each person employed as a law enforcement
39 officer or agent by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety
40 who retires under the Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System or
41 the Public Employees' Retirement System, for superannuation or for
42 reason of disability or a beneficiary of such * * * law
43 enforcement officer or agent, who is killed in the line of duty
44 shall be allowed to retain, as his personal property, one (1)
45 sidearm which was issued under authority of Section 45-3-19 or
46 41-29-159. Likewise, a beneficiary of any law enforcement officer
47 killed in the line of duty shall be allowed to retain the
48 officer's sidearm.

49 **SECTION 3.** Section 45-9-131, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
50 amended by House Bill No. 634, 2024 Regular Session is amended as
51 follows:

52 45-9-131. (1) Upon approval of the governing authority of
53 the municipality or county, a member of any municipal or county
54 law enforcement agency who retires under any state retirement
55 system or leaves such employment after being employed for ten (10)
56 continuous years of service may be allowed to purchase, as his or



57 her personal property, one (1) sidearm which was issued to the law
58 enforcement officer by the law enforcement agency from which he or
59 she retired or by whom he or she was employed at the time of
60 death. The governing authority of the municipality or county that
61 employed the member of the law enforcement agency shall determine
62 an agreed upon price to be paid for the sidearm.

63 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this
64 section, upon approval of the director of a state agency, board or
65 commission, a law enforcement officer employed by a state agency,
66 board or commission who retires under any state retirement system
67 may be allowed to purchase, as his or her personal property, one
68 (1) sidearm which was issued to the law enforcement officer by a
69 state agency, board or commission. The state agency, board or
70 commission that employed the law enforcement officer shall
71 determine an agreed upon price to be paid for the sidearm.

72 (3) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this
73 section and subject to the satisfactory completion of any required
74 background checks, the next of kin of a law enforcement officer
75 who is killed in the line of duty is authorized to purchase the
76 sidearm that was issued to the officer. The amount to be paid for
77 any * * * sidearm purchased under the authority of this subsection
78 shall be an agreed upon price as determined by the appropriate
79 governmental authority who employed the officer.

80 (4) * * * This section does not apply to a law enforcement
81 officer employed by the Department of Public Safety or a



82 beneficiary of a law enforcement officer employed by the
83 Department of Public Safety, who, pursuant to Section 45-3-51, may
84 retain one (1) sidearm upon the officer's retirement or death in
85 the line of duty.

86 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is established the State Medical
87 Examiner Task Force as a successor entity to the State Medical
88 Examiner Advisory Council created under Section 41-61-55(3). The
89 task force is comprised of the following nine (9) members:

90 (a) The State Health Officer or the officer's designee;

91 (b) The Dean of the University of Mississippi Medical
92 Center School of Medicine or the dean's designee;

93 (c) The Commissioner of Public Safety;

94 (d) The Attorney General or the Attorney General's
95 designee;

96 (e) The President of the Mississippi Coroners and
97 Medical Examiners Association or the president's designee;

98 (f) The President of the Mississippi Prosecutors
99 Association or the president's designee;

100 (g) The President of the Mississippi Public Defenders
101 Association or the president's designee;

102 (h) The President of the Mississippi Association of
103 Chiefs of Police or the president's designee; and

104 (i) The President of the Mississippi Sheriffs'
105 Association or the president's designee.



106 Each member of the task force serves at the pleasure of the
107 head of the member's agency or appointing authority.

108 (2) The members of the task force shall elect a member
109 annually to serve as chair. A member may not serve as chair more
110 than two (2) consecutive years. The chair shall call meetings of
111 the task force and shall cause written notice of the meetings to
112 be furnished to members of the task force at least thirty (30)
113 days before the date of a meeting.

114 (3) Members of the task force must serve without
115 compensation.

116 (4) The task force shall meet at least once annually.

117 (5) The first meeting of the task force must be held before
118 September 30, 2024. Notice of the time and place of the first
119 meeting must be provided to each member of the task force no less
120 than sixty (60) days before the scheduled meeting.

121 (6) Before December 31 of each year, the task force shall
122 prepare and submit an annual report containing recommendations and
123 advice to the Legislature. The report must include, but need not
124 be limited to, the following:

125 (a) Identification of needs and means to improve the
126 investigation of deaths affecting the public interest while using
127 best practices;

128 (b) Identification of state medical examiner resources;
129 and



130 (c) Recommendations to enhance the efficiency of the
131 Mississippi State Medical Examiner's Office.

132 **SECTION 5.** Section 41-61-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
133 amended as follows:

134 41-61-55. (1) There is hereby created the position of State
135 Medical Examiner, under the supervision of the Commissioner of
136 Public Safety and within the Office of Forensic Laboratories. The
137 State Medical Examiner shall be appointed by the Commissioner of
138 Public Safety subject to review by the dean of the University of
139 Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine and the State Health
140 Officer. The State Medical Examiner may be discharged only for
141 good cause by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

142 (2) The State Medical Examiner must obtain a license to
143 practice medicine in Mississippi and be certified in forensic
144 pathology by the American Board of Pathology. The State Medical
145 Examiner may also be designated as the Chief Medical Examiner.

146 * * *

147 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
148 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A LEASE
3 OR SUBLEASE AGREEMENT FOR SPACE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
4 HEADQUARTERS BUILDING WITH A THIRD PARTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF
5 PROVIDING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS
6 EMPLOYEES; TO AMEND SECTION 45-3-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO



7 AUTHORIZE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
8 OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO RETAIN A SIDEARM UPON RETIREMENT; TO AUTHORIZE
9 A BENEFICIARY OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI
10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO RETAIN THE SIDEARM OF SUCH OFFICER
11 OR AGENT; TO AMEND SECTION 45-9-131, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, AS
12 AMENDED BY HOUSE NO. 634, 2024 REGULAR SESSION, TO CONFORM; TO
13 CREATE THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER TASK FORCE TO REPLACE THE STATE
14 MEDICAL EXAMINER ADVISORY COUNCIL; TO AMEND SECTION 41-61-55,
15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE
16 STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER ADVISORY COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Fillingane

X (SIGNED)
Sparks

X (SIGNED)
Hopson

CONFEREES FOR

X (SIGNED)
Ford (54th)

X (SIGNED)
Porter

X (SIGNED)
Calvert

