

By: Senator(s) Wiggins, Simmons (13th)

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2899
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-13-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE COURT REPORTERS FOR CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURTS TO BE PAID
3 AN ANNUAL SALARY; TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED ANNUAL SALARY FOR
4 COURT REPORTERS; TO PROVIDE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE RULES AND
5 REGULATIONS GOVERNING CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS, AN OFFICIAL COURT
6 REPORTER MAY ENGAGE IN FREELANCE REPORTING ACTIVITIES AS LONG AS
7 THE MATTER AT ISSUE IS NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT IN
8 WHICH THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER IS APPOINTED; TO PROVIDE THAT AN
9 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER WHO DOES NOT HAVE DELINQUENT WORK FROM THE
10 COURT OF APPOINTMENT AND WHOSE ATTENDANCE IS NOT REQUIRED IN THE
11 COURT OF APPOINTMENT SHALL NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM ENGAGING IN
12 FREELANCE REPORTING ACTIVITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-13-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
15 amended as follows:

16 9-13-19. (1) Court reporters for circuit and chancery
17 courts * * * shall be paid an annual salary payable by the
18 Administrative Office of Courts not to exceed * * * Fifty-nine
19 Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$59,400.00) for court reporters
20 with five (5) years' experience or less; not to exceed * * *
21 Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$70,200.00) for court
22 reporters who have more than five (5) years' experience but less
23 than ten (10) years; and not to exceed * * * Seventy-six Thousand



24 Eight Hundred Dollars (\$76,800.00) for court reporters who have
25 ten (10) years or more experience. No amount of the increase in
26 the maximum salary authorized by this section shall be paid from
27 the State General Fund. The board of supervisors of any county is
28 authorized to pay its court reporters the applicable amount of the
29 maximum salary authorized by this section. In addition, any court
30 reporter performing the duties of a court administrator in the
31 same judicial district in which the person is employed as a court
32 reporter may be paid additional compensation for performing the
33 court administrator duties. The annual amount of the additional
34 compensation shall be set by vote of the judges and chancellors
35 for whom the court administrator duties are performed, with
36 consideration given to the number of hours per month devoted by
37 the court reporter to performing the duties of a court
38 administrator. The additional compensation shall be submitted to
39 the Administrative Office of Courts for approval.

40 (2) The several counties in each respective court district
41 shall transfer from the general funds of those county treasuries
42 to the Administrative Office of Courts a proportionate amount to
43 be paid toward the annual compensation of the court reporter,
44 including any additional compensation paid for the performance of
45 court administrator duties. The amount to be paid by each county
46 shall be determined by the number of weeks in which court is held
47 in each county in proportion to the total number of weeks court is
48 held in the district. For purposes of this section, the term



49 "compensation" means the gross salary plus all amounts paid for
50 benefits, or otherwise, as a result of employment or as required
51 by employment, but does not include transcript fees otherwise
52 authorized to be paid by or through the counties. However, only
53 salary earned for services rendered shall be reported and credited
54 for retirement purposes. Amounts paid for transcript fees,
55 benefits or otherwise, including reimbursement for travel
56 expenses, shall not be reported or credited for retirement
57 purposes.

58 For example, if there are thirty-eight (38) scheduled court
59 weeks in a particular district, a county in which court is
60 scheduled five (5) weeks out of the year would have to pay
61 five-thirty-eighths (5/38) of the total annual compensation.

62 (3) The salary and any additional compensation for the
63 performance of court administrator duties shall be paid in twelve
64 (12) installments on the last working day of each month after it
65 has been duly authorized by the appointing judge or chancellor and
66 an order duly placed on the minutes of the court. Each county
67 shall transfer to the Administrative Office of Courts one-twelfth
68 (1/12) of the amount required to be paid pursuant to subsection
69 (2) of this section by the twentieth day of each month for the
70 salary that is to be paid on the last working day of the month.
71 The Administrative Office of Courts shall pay to the court
72 reporter the total amount of salary due for that month. Any
73 county may pay, in the discretion of the board of supervisors, by



74 the twentieth day of January of any year, the amount due for a
75 full twelve (12) months.

76 (4) From and after October 1, 1996, all circuit and chancery
77 court reporters will be employees of the Administrative Office of
78 Courts.

79 (5) No circuit or chancery court reporter shall be entitled
80 to any compensation for any special or extended term of court
81 after passage of this section.

82 (6) No chancery or circuit court reporter shall practice law
83 in the court within which he or she is the court reporter.

84 (7) Notwithstanding the Rules and Regulations Governing
85 Certified Court Reporters, an official court reporter may engage
86 in freelance reporting activities as long as the matter at issue
87 is not under the jurisdiction of the court in which the official
88 court reporter is appointed. An official court reporter who does
89 not have delinquent work from the court of appointment and whose
90 attendance is not required in the court of appointment shall not
91 be prohibited from engaging in freelance reporting activities as
92 provided by this subsection. Neither travel expenses for
93 freelance reporting activities nor any other expenses related to
94 such activities shall be paid or otherwise reimbursed to any court
95 reporter from the court, Administrative Office of Courts or
96 governmental entity that employs the court reporter full time. No
97 government owned equipment may be used at any time by any court
98 reporter while engaging in freelance reporting activities.



99 (* * *8) For all travel required in the performance of
100 official duties, the circuit or chancery court reporter shall be
101 paid mileage by the county in which the duties were performed at
102 the same rate as provided for state employees in Section 25-3-41.
103 The court reporter shall file in the office of the clerk of the
104 court which he serves a certificate of mileage expense incurred
105 during that term and payment of such expense to the court reporter
106 shall be paid on allowance by the judge of such court.

107 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
108 and after July 1, 2025.

