

By: Senator(s) Barnett

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2796

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE; TO
2 CHARGE THE TASK FORCE WITH STUDYING VIOLENT CRIME CLEARANCE RATES
3 AND STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND
4 DETERRENCE OF VIOLENT CRIME; TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBERSHIP,
5 ORGANIZATION, DUTIES, AND REPORTING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1. Legislative findings and purpose.** (1) The

8 Legislature finds that violent crime undermines public safety,
9 erodes trust in the justice system, and imposes significant human
10 and economic costs on victims, families, and communities.

11 (2) The Legislature further finds that clearance rates,
12 defined as the percentage of reported crimes that are solved
13 through arrest or other lawful means, are a critical measure of
14 whether violent offenders are being held accountable and whether
15 victims receive justice.

16 (3) Clearance rates for violent crimes have declined
17 significantly over time, weakening deterrence and increasing the
18 likelihood of repeat offending.



(4) Low clearance rates send a message that violent crime carries a reduced risk of consequence, thereby endangering public safety.

(5) Mississippi's law enforcement landscape includes a significant number of small and rural agencies that face challenges related to staffing, training, technology, investigative capacity, and data reporting.

(6) Improving violent crime clearance rates requires a coordinated approach that includes effective policing strategies, focused deterrence of high-risk offenders, swift and certain accountability, victim engagement, and evidence-based prevention practices.

(7) The purpose of this act is to establish a task force to examine violent crime clearance rates and recommend policies that improve public safety and justice outcomes.

SECTION 2. Creation of the Mississippi Violent Crime Task Force. There is hereby created the Mississippi Violent Crime Task Force to study violent crime clearance rates and recommend legislative and policy actions to improve the investigation, prosecution, and deterrence of violent crime in Mississippi.

SECTION 3. Duties of the task force. The task force shall:

(a) Review violent crime clearance rates statewide and by jurisdiction;



(b) Identify barriers to solving violent crimes, including investigative, technological, staffing, and coordination challenges;

(c) Evaluate evidence-based policing and prosecution strategies that improve violent crime clearance rates;

(d) Examine strategies to identify and supervise high-risk and repeat violent offenders;

(e) Review practices that promote swift and certain accountability for violent crime;

(f) Assess the role of victim engagement and services in improving case outcomes;

(g) Examine the quality, timeliness, and completeness of crime data reporting;

(h) Identify prevention strategies that reduce violent crime and recidivism; and

(i) Develop recommendations for legislative, administrative, and policy changes.

SECTION 4. Membership. The task force shall be composed of the following members:

(a) The Chair of the House Judiciary B Committee, or designee;

(b) The Chair of the Senate Judiciary B Committee, or designee;

(c) The Attorney General of Mississippi, or designee;



66 (d) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
67 Public Safety, or designee;

68 (e) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
69 Corrections, or designee;

70 (f) The Director of the Mississippi Bureau of
71 Investigation, or designee;

72 (g) One (1) district attorney appointed by the
73 Mississippi Prosecutors Association;

74 (h) One (1) sheriff appointed by the Mississippi
75 Sheriffs' Association;

76 (i) One (1) municipal police chief appointed by the
77 Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police;

78 (j) One (1) circuit court judge appointed by the Chief
79 Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court;

80 (k) One (1) mayor appointed by the Mississippi
81 Municipal League;

82 (l) One (1) county supervisor appointed by the
83 Mississippi Association of Supervisors;

84 (m) One (1) representative of a statewide victims'
85 rights organization appointed by the Governor;

86 (n) One (1) representative of a nonprofit organization
87 with experience in criminal justice policy appointed by the
88 Governor; and

89 (o) One (1) at-large law enforcement professional
90 appointed by the Governor.



91 **SECTION 5. Organization and administration.**

92 (1) The chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary B
93 Committees, or their designees, shall serve as co-chairs.

94 (2) The task force may meet as necessary and may request
95 information from state and local agencies.

96 (3) Members shall serve without compensation but may be
97 reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses as provided by law.

98 **SECTION 6. Report.** The task force shall submit a written
99 report to the Legislature no later than December 20, 2026,
100 containing findings and recommendations.

101 **SECTION 7. Continuation.** The Mississippi Violent Crime Task
102 Force shall continue in existence until otherwise provided by law.

103 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
104 and after July 1, 2026.

