

By: Senator(s) Fillingane

To: *Judiciary, Division B*

SENATE BILL NO. 2797

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE TO
2 EXAMINE VIOLENT CRIME CLEARANCE RATES AND RECOMMEND POLICIES THAT
3 IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE OUTCOMES; TO STATE LEGISLATIVE
4 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE; TO SET FORTH THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE,
5 ITS MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION; TO REQUIRE THE
6 TASK FORCE TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE TASK
7 FORCE SHALL CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE UNTIL OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW;
8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) **Legislative Findings and Purpose.** (a) The
11 Legislature finds that violent crime undermines public safety,
12 erodes trust in the justice system, and imposes significant human
13 and economic costs on victims, families, and communities.

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

19 (c) Clearance rates for violent crimes have declined
20 significantly over time, weakening deterrence and increasing the
21 likelihood of repeat offending.



22 (d) Only thirty percent (30%) of violent crimes are
23 cleared in Mississippi, well below the national average of
24 forty-one percent (41%).

25 (e) Mississippi has one of the highest homicide rates
26 in the country, despite having a lower overall violent crime rate
27 than most other states. According to FBI data, Mississippi's 2024
28 murder clearance rate was fifty-two percent (52%).

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

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

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

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

44 (2) Creation of the Mississippi Violent Crime Task Force.

45 There is hereby created the Mississippi Violent Crime Task Force
46 to study violent crime clearance rates and recommend legislative



47 and policy actions to improve the investigation, prosecution, and
48 deterrence of violent crime in Mississippi.

49 (3) **Duties of the Task Force.** The task force shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

69 (4) **Membership.** The task force shall be composed of the
70 following members:

- (a) The Chair of the Senate Judiciary, Division B Committee, or designee;
- (b) The Chair of the House Judiciary B Committee, or designee;
- (c) The Attorney General of Mississippi, or designee;
- (d) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, or designee;
- (e) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections, or designee;
- (f) The Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, or designee;
- (g) One (1) district attorney appointed by the Mississippi Prosecutors Association;
- (h) One (1) sheriff appointed by the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association;
- (i) One (1) municipal police chief appointed by the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police;
- (j) One (1) circuit court judge appointed by the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court;
- (k) One (1) mayor appointed by the Mississippi Municipal League;
- (l) One (1) county supervisor appointed by the Mississippi Association of Supervisors;
- (m) One (1) representative of a statewide victims' rights organization appointed by the Governor;

96 (n) One (1) representative of a nonprofit organization
97 with experience in criminal justice policy appointed by the
98 Governor; and

99 (o) One (1) law enforcement professional appointed by
100 the Governor.

101 (5) **Organization and Administration.** (a) The chair of the
102 Senate Judiciary, Division B Committee and the chair of the House
103 Judiciary B Committee, or their designees, shall serve as
104 co-chairs.

105 (b) The task force may meet as necessary and may
106 request information from state and local agencies.

107 (c) Members shall serve without compensation but may be
108 reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses as provided by law
109 subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

110 (6) **Report.** The task force shall submit a written report to
111 the Legislature no later than December 20, 2026, containing its
112 findings and recommendations.

113 (7) **Continuation.** The task force shall continue in
114 existence until otherwise provided by law.

115 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
116 and after July 1, 2026.

