

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



EXECUTIVE ORDER 1397

WHEREAS, the function of sentencing in the criminal justice system is to properly punish criminals for their offenses; and

WHEREAS, there are claims of sentences for the same crime differing drastically from one district to another in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, sentences need to be applied fairly in order to promote the interest of uniform justice throughout the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to study the existence of possible disparity in sentencing for crimes as documented by the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby create a Sentencing Disparity Task Force.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sentencing Disparity Task Force shall be composed of: a district attorney, a public defender, a sheriff, a police chief, a victim assistance coordinator, the Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, the Mississippi Parole Board Chairman, the Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner, the Attorney General, the Senate Judiciary A Chairman, the House Judiciary B Chairman, and such other members that the Governor deems necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Senate Judiciary A Chairman and the House Judiciary B Chairman shall serve as Co-chairs of the Sentencing Disparity Task Force.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that members of the Sentencing Disparity Task Force shall serve voluntarily with no compensation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the Sentencing Disparity Task Force shall meet as often as necessary at the call of the Co-chairs and prepare and submit a final report that contains a detailed statement of findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by November 1, 2017.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sentencing Disparity Task Force shall be abolished upon submission of the report.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 4th day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

C. DELBERT HOSEMAN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE