

By: Representative Johnson

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

## HOUSE BILL NO. 455

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-541, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS BEFORE VOTING; TO REQUIRE  
3 ELECTORS TO SHOW A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AN IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED  
4 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR OTHER FORM OF LEGAL  
5 IDENTIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-541, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 23-15-541. At all elections, the polls shall be opened at  
10 seven o'clock in the morning and be kept open until seven o'clock  
11 in the evening and no longer. Upon the opening of the polls, and  
12 not before, the managers of the election shall designate two (2)  
13 of their number, other than the manager previously designated to  
14 receive the blank ballots, who shall \* \* \* be known respectively  
15 as the initialing manager and the alternate initialing manager.  
16 The alternate initialing manager, in the absence of the initialing  
17 manager, shall perform all of the duties and undertake all of the  
18 responsibilities of the initialing manager. When any person  
19 entitled to vote shall appear to vote, the managers shall identify  
20 the voter, in the presence and view of the bystanders, by  
21 requiring the voter to submit a valid Mississippi driver's  
22 license, an identification card issued by the Department of Public  
23 Safety, a voter registration card, a health insurance card, a tax  
24 receipt, any other identification card issued by an agency of the  
25 State as provided by law, any identification card issued by an  
26 agency of the United States as provided by federal law, a  
27 certified copy of the electors birth certificate or any other

28 severally recognized form or photographic identification or by  
29 comparison with the descriptive information on the pollbook or by  
30 having a person from the precinct vouch for the person's  
31 identification; and then that person \* \* \* shall \* \* \* sign his  
32 name in a receipt book or booklet provided for that purpose and to  
33 be used at that election only and the receipt book or booklet  
34 shall be used in lieu of the list made by the managers or clerks  
35 which lists the voters who have voted formerly \* \* \* ; whereupon  
36 and not before, the initialing manager or, in his absence, the  
37 alternate initialing manager shall indorse his initials on the  
38 back of an official blank ballot, prepared in accordance with law,  
39 and at such place on the back of the ballot that the initials may  
40 be seen after the ballot has been marked and folded, and when so  
41 indorsed he shall deliver it to the voter, which ballot the voter  
42 shall mark in the manner provided by law, which when done the  
43 voter shall deliver the same to the initialing manager or, in his  
44 absence, to the alternate initialing manager, in the presence of  
45 the others, and the manager shall see that the ballot so delivered  
46 bears on the back thereof the genuine initials of the initialing  
47 manager, or alternate initialing manager, and if so, but not  
48 otherwise, the ballot shall be put into the ballot box; and when  
49 so done one (1) of the managers or a duly appointed clerk shall  
50 make the proper entry on the pollbook. If the voter is unable to  
51 write his name on the receipt book, a manager or clerk shall note  
52 on the back of the ballot that it was receipted for by his  
53 assistance.

54 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
55 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
56 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
57 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
58 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
59 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
60 extended.

61 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
63 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.