

By: Representative Denny

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 536

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-211, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS;
3 TO PROVIDE THAT NO COMPENSATION WILL BE AUTHORIZED OR APPROVED FOR
4 COMMISSIONERS WHO FAIL TO COMPLETE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 23-15-211. (1) There shall be a State Board of Election
10 Commissioners to consist of the Governor, the Secretary of State
11 and the Attorney General, any two (2) of whom may perform the
12 duties required of the board; a board of election commissioners in
13 each county to consist of five (5) persons who are electors in the
14 county in which they are to act; and a registrar in each county
15 who shall be the clerk of the circuit court, unless he shall be
16 shown to be an improper person to register the names of the
17 electors therein.

18 (2) The board of supervisors of each county shall pay
19 members of the county election commissioners for attending
20 training events a per diem in the amount provided in Section
21 23-15-153; however, such per diem shall not be paid to an election
22 commissioner for more than six (6) days of training per year and
23 shall only be paid to election commissioners who actually attend
24 and complete a training event and obtain a training certificate.

25 (3) Included in this six (6) days shall be an elections
26 seminar, conducted and sponsored by the Secretary of State.
27 Election commissioners and chairpersons of each political party

28 executive committee or their designee shall be required to attend.

29 (4) Each participant shall receive a certificate from the
30 Secretary of State indicating that the named participant has
31 received the elections training seminar instruction and that each
32 participant is fully qualified to conduct an election.

33 (5) In addition to the above, each county election
34 commissioner shall be required to attend an additional four-hour
35 seminar on how to maintain accurate voter registration records.
36 The seminar shall be conducted and sponsored by the Secretary of
37 State. This additional requirement does not apply to municipal
38 election commissioners.

39 (6) Any county election commissioner who fails to complete
40 the above training requirements during any calendar year shall not
41 receive any compensation until the training requirements are met.

42 (7) The Secretary of State, not later than January 10 of
43 each year, shall submit a list of county election commissioners,
44 who have completed the training requirements, to the appropriate
45 local officials responsible for paying county election
46 commissioners. The local officials shall not authorize or approve
47 any payment to any county election commissioner who has not
48 completed the required training for the period beginning January 1
49 and ending when the county election commissioner presents
50 satisfactory proof that he has completed the training requirements
51 for the previous year. Any training completed to satisfy the
52 prior year's requirements shall not be credited towards meeting
53 the current year's requirements.

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.