

By: Senator(s) Harden (By Request)

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2579  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-239, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO COMPENSATE MANAGERS WHO  
3 ATTEND TRAINING SESSIONS CONDUCTED BEFORE THE ELECTION AS TO THEIR  
4 DUTIES IN THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS AND THE OPERATION  
5 OF THE POLLING PLACE; TO REQUIRE THE TIME AND LOCATION OF THE  
6 TRAINING SESSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC; TO ALLOW  
7 POLL WATCHERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO ATTEND THE  
8 SESSIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-239, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 23-15-239. (1) The commissioners of election of each  
13 county, in conjunction with the circuit clerk, shall sponsor and  
14 conduct, not less than five (5) days prior to each election,  
15 training sessions to instruct managers \* \* \* as to their duties in  
16 the proper administration of the election and the operation of the  
17 polling place. No manager \* \* \* shall serve in any election  
18 unless he has received such instructions once during the twelve  
19 (12) months immediately preceding the date upon which such  
20 election is held; provided, however, that nothing in this section  
21 shall prevent the appointment of an alternate manager to fill a  
22 vacancy in case of an emergency. The commissioners of election  
23 shall train a sufficient number of alternates to serve in the  
24 event a manager \* \* \* is unable to serve for any reason.

25 (2) The board of supervisors, in their discretion, may  
26 compensate managers who attend such training sessions. The  
27 compensation shall be at a rate of not less than the federal  
28 hourly minimum wage nor more than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per hour.  
29 Managers shall not be compensated for more than two (2) hours of

30 attendance at the training sessions regardless of the actual  
31 amount of time that they attended the training sessions.

32 (3) The time and location of the training sessions required  
33 pursuant to this section shall be announced to the general public  
34 by posting a notice thereof at the courthouse and by delivering a  
35 copy of the notice to the office of a newspaper having general  
36 circulation in the county five (5) days before the date upon which  
37 the training session is to be conducted. Persons who will serve  
38 as poll watchers for candidates and political parties, as well as  
39 members of the general public, shall be allowed to attend the  
40 sessions.

41 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
42 is hereby directed to submit this act, immediately upon approval  
43 by the Governor, or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to  
44 a veto, to the Attorney General of the United States or to the  
45 United States District Court for the District of Columbia in  
46 accordance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
47 as amended and extended.

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