Pending AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill NO. 914

By Senator(s) Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- 42 SECTION 1. (1) The application for absentee ballot of a
- 43 person sixty-five (65) years of age or older shall entitle such
- 44 person to automatically receive an absentee ballot for all
- 45 elections on a continuing basis without the necessity for
- 46 reapplication until such time as the elector declines in writing
- 47 the automatic receipt of the ballot or is no longer a qualified
- 48 elector.
- 49 (2) The registrar of each county shall keep an accurate list
- 50 of the names and addresses of all persons whose application
- 51 indicate they are sixty-five (65) years of age or older. Sixty
- 52 (60) days prior to each election, the registrar shall deliver such
- 53 list to the commissioners of election who shall examine the list
- 54 and delete from it the names of all persons listed who are no
- 55 longer qualified electors of the county. Upon completion of such
- 56 examination, the commissioners of election shall return the list
- 57 to the registrar by no later than forty-five (45) days prior to
- 58 the election.
- 59 (3) The registrar shall send a ballot to all persons on the
- 60 list who are determined by the commissioners of election to be
- 61 qualified electors pursuant to subsection (3) of this section by
- 62 no later than forty (40) days prior to the election.

- 63 SECTION 2. Section 23-15-625, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 64 amended as follows:
- 65 23-15-625. (1) The registrar shall be responsible for
- 66 printing applications for absentee voting as provided herein. At
- 67 least sixty (60) days prior to any election in which absentee
- 68 voting is provided for by law, the registrar shall order a
- 69 sufficient number of applications to be printed; provided,
- 70 however, that in the event a special election is called and set at
- 71 a date which makes it impractical or impossible to print
- 72 applications for absent elector's ballot sixty (60) days prior to
- 73 such election, the registrar shall print such applications as soon
- 74 as practicable after such election is called. The applications
- 75 shall be printed with sequential numbers appearing on the
- 76 application * * *. The registrar shall fill in the date of the
- 77 particular election on the application for which the application
- 78 will be used. Upon receipt of the applications for the election
- 79 from the printer, the registrar shall file an affidavit with the
- 80 election commission and a duplicate original of the affidavit in
- 81 the registrar's office stating the number of applications which he
- 82 received from the printer.
- 83 (2) The registrar shall be authorized to disburse
- 84 applications for absentee ballots to any qualified elector within
- 85 the county where he serves. The registrar shall keep a permanent
- 86 ledger for the purpose of showing the number of applications and
- 87 the persons to whom the applications were given. If an elector
- 88 picks up applications for another person, the elector shall print
- 89 <u>his name and address in the ledger, sign the ledger and</u> indicate
- 90 on the ledger the name or names $\underline{\text{and address or addresses}}$ of the
- 91 persons for whom he is obtaining the applications. A registrar or
- 92 <u>deputy registrar who knowingly and willfully disburses</u>
- 93 applications pursuant to this subsection without obtaining the
- 94 <u>information required by this subsection to be entered into the</u>
- 95 <u>ledger shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction</u>

- 96 thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six
- 97 (6) months or a fine of not more than Twenty Thousand Dollars
- 98 (\$20,000.00).
- 99 (3) The registrar in the county wherein a voter is qualified
- 100 to vote upon receiving the envelope containing the absentee
- 101 ballots shall keep an accurate list of all persons preparing such
- 102 ballots, which list shall be kept in a conspicuous place
- 103 accessible to the public near the entrance to his office. The
- 104 registrar shall also furnish to each precinct manager a list of
- 105 the names of all persons in each respective precinct voting
- 106 absentee ballots to be posted in a conspicuous place at the
- 107 polling place for public notice. The application on file with the
- 108 registrar and the envelopes containing the ballots shall be kept
- 109 by the registrar and deposited in the proper precinct ballot boxes
- 110 before such boxes are delivered to the election commissioners or
- 111 managers. At the time such boxes are delivered to the election
- 112 commissioners or managers, the registrar shall also turn over a
- 113 list of all such persons who have voted and whose ballots are in
- 114 the box.
- 115 (4) The registrar shall * * * be authorized to mail one (1)
- 116 application to any qualified elector of the county for use in a
- 117 particular election, in no event shall the registrar mail a ballot
- 118 in the same envelope with an application.
- SECTION 3. Section 23-15-627, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 120 amended as follows:
- 121 23-15-627. $\underline{(1)}$ The registrar shall be responsible for
- 122 furnishing an absentee ballot application form to any elector
- 123 authorized to receive <u>an absentee</u> ballot. <u>A reproduction of an</u>
- 124 <u>absentee ballot application shall not be valid unless it is a</u>
- 125 reproduction provided by the office of the registrar of the
- 126 jurisdiction in which the election is being held and contains the
- 127 <u>seal and the initials of the registrar.</u> Such application shall be
- 128 substantially in the following form:

129	"OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ABSENT ELECTOR'S BALLOT
130	Sequential Application Number
131	I,, duly qualified and registered in the Precinct
132	of the County of, and State of Mississippi, coming within
133	the purview of the definition 'ABSENT ELECTOR' will be absent from
134	the county of my residence on election day, or unable to vote in
135	person because (check appropriate reason):
136	() (PRESIDENTIAL APPLICANT ONLY:) I am currently a
137	resident of Mississippi or have moved therefrom within thirty (30)
138	days of the coming presidential election.
139	() I am an enlisted or commissioned member, male or female,
140	of any component of the United States Armed Forces and am a
141	citizen of Mississippi, or spouse or dependent of such member.
142	() I am a member of the Merchant Marine or the American Red
143	Cross and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of
144	such member.
145	() I am a disabled war veteran who is a patient in any
146	hospital and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of
147	such veteran.
148	() I am a civilian attached to and serving outside of the
149	United States with any branch of the Armed Forces or with the
150	Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and am a citizen of
151	Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such civilian.
152	() I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing
153	outside the territorial limits of the United States and the
154	District of Columbia.
155	() I am a student, teacher or administrator at a college,
156	university, junior or community college, high, junior high,
157	elementary or grade school, whose studies or employment at such
158	institution necessitates my absence from the county of my voting
159	residence or spouse or dependent of such student, teacher or
160	administrator who maintains a common domicile outside the county
161	of my voting residence with such student, teacher or

162	administrator.
163	() I will be outside the county on election day.
164	() I have a temporary or permanent * * * disability.
165	() I am sixty-five (65) years of age or older.
166	() I am the parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a
167	temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized
168	outside his county of residence or more than fifty (50) miles away
169	from his residence, and I will be with such person on election
170	day.
171	() I am a member of the congressional delegation, or spouse
172	or dependent of a member of the congressional delegation.
173	() I am required to be at work on election day during the
174	times at which the polls will be open.
175	I hereby make application for an official ballot, or ballots,
176	to be voted by me at the election to be held in, on
177	Send 'Absent Elector's Ballot' to me at the following address
178	, City , State , Zip Code .
179	I realize that I can be fined up to Five Thousand Dollars
180	(\$5,000.00) and sentenced up to five (5) years in the penitentiary
181	for making a false statement in this application and for selling
182	my vote and violating the Mississippi Absentee Voter Law. (This
183	sentence is to be in bold print.)
184	If you are temporarily or permanently disabled, you are not
185	required to have this application notarized or signed by an
186	official authorized to administer oaths for absentee balloting.
187	You are required to sign this application in the proper place and
188	have a person eighteen (18) years of age or older witness your
189	signature and sign this application in the proper place.
190	DO NOT SIGN WITHOUT READING. (This sentence is to be in bold
191	<pre>print.)</pre>
192	IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this
193	the day of, 19
194	

195 (Signature of absent elector) SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the ____ day of ____, 196 197 19___. 198 (Official authorized to administer oaths for absentee 199 200 balloting or witness in the case of an elector temporarily or 201 permanently disabled.)" SECTION 4. Section 23-15-631, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 202 203 amended as follows: 23-15-631. (1) The registrar shall enclose with each ballot 204 205 sent to an absent elector separate printed instructions furnished 206 by him containing the following: (a) All absentee voters, excepting those with temporary 207 or permanent physical disabilities or those who are sixty-five 208 (65) years of age or older, who mark their ballots in the county 209 of the residence shall use the registrar of that county as the 210 211 witness. Said absentee voter shall come to the office of the 212 registrar and neither the registrar nor his deputy shall be required to go out of the registrar's office to serve as an 213 214 attesting witness. (b) Upon receipt of the enclosed ballot, you will not 215 216 mark same except in view or sight of the attesting witness. the sight or view of the attesting witness, mark the ballot 217 218 according to instructions. 219 After marking the ballot, fill out and sign the "ELECTOR'S CERTIFICATE" on back of the envelope so that the 220 221 signature shall be across the flap of the envelope so as to insure the integrity of the ballot. All absent electors shall have the 222 attesting witness sign the "ATTESTING WITNESS CERTIFICATE" on back 223 of the envelope. Place necessary postage on the envelope and 224 225 deposit it in the post office or some government receptacle 226 provided for deposit of mail so that the absent elector's ballot, excepting presidential absentee ballots, will reach the registrar 227

- 228 in which your precinct is located not later than 5:00 p.m. on the
- 229 day preceding the date of the election, or by personally
- 230 delivering such ballot to the registrar's office not later than
- 231 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding elections held on
- 232 Tuesday, the Thursday immediately preceding elections held on
- 233 Saturday, and the second day immediately preceding elections held
- 234 on other days.
- 235 Any notary public, United States postmaster, assistant United
- 236 States postmaster, United States postal supervisor, clerk in
- 237 charge of a contract postal station, or any officer having
- 238 authority to administer an oath or take an acknowledgment may be
- 239 an attesting witness; provided, however, that in the case of an
- 240 absent elector who is temporarily or permanently physically
- 241 disabled, the attesting witness may be any person eighteen (18)
- 242 years of age or older and such person is not required to have the
- 243 authority to administer an oath. If a postmaster, assistant
- 244 postmaster, postal supervisor, or clerk in charge of a contract
- 245 postal station acts as an attesting witness, his signature on the
- 246 elector's certificate must be authenticated by the cancellation
- 247 stamp of their respective post offices. If one or the other
- 248 officers herein named acts as attesting witness, his signature on
- 249 the elector's certificate, together with his title and address,
- 250 but no seal, shall be required. Any affidavits made by an absent
- 251 elector who is in the armed forces may be executed before a
- 252 commissioned officer, warrant officer, or noncommissioned officer
- 253 not lower in grade than sergeant rating, or any person authorized
- 254 to administer oaths.
- 255 (d) * * * The application * * * shall not be returned
- 256 in the same envelope as the ballot but shall be returned in a
- 257 separate pre-addressed envelope provided by the registrar.
- (e) Any voter casting an absentee ballot who is blind
- 259 or unable to read or write, or who is temporarily or permanently
- 260 disabled, shall be entitled to receive assistance in the marking

261	of his absentee ballot. The voter may be given assistance by
262	anyone of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer, or
263	agent of that employer, or officer or agent of the voter's union,
264	or any candidate whose name appears on the ballot. Any person who
265	provides assistance to an absentee voter shall print his name and
266	address and sign his name in the appropriate places on the
267	absentee ballot envelope.
268	(2) The foregoing instructions required to be provided by
269	the registrar to the elector shall also constitute the substantive
270	law pertaining to the handling of absentee ballots by the elector
271	and registrar.
272	SECTION 5. Section 23-15-635, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
273	amended as follows:
274	23-15-635. (1) The form of the elector's certificate and
275	attesting witness certification on the back of the envelope used
276	by voters who do not use the registrar of their county of
277	residence as an attesting witness shall be as follows:
278	"ELECTOR'S CERTIFICATE
279	STATE OF
280	COUNTY OR PARISH OF
281	* * * This envelope contains the ballot marked by me
282	indicating my choice of the candidates or propositions to be
283	submitted at the election to be held on the day of
284	19, and I hereby authorize the registrar to place this envelope
285	in the ballot box on my behalf, and I further authorize the
286	election managers to open this envelope and place my ballot among
287	the other ballots cast before such ballots are counted, and record
288	my name on the poll list as if I were present in person and voted.
289	I further <u>declare</u> that I marked the enclosed ballot in
290	secret.
291	
292	(Signature of voter)
293	CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING WITNESS

294	Personally appeared before me, on this the day of
295	, 19, the above-named voter, known by me to be the
296	person named, who * * * signed the foregoing certificate. That
297	said voter exhibited to me his blank ballot; that said ballot was
298	not marked or voted before the said voter exhibited the ballot to
299	me; that said voter then retired out of my presence, but within my
300	sight, and voted his ballot so that I could not see how he voted;
301	that no one was present with said voter as he marked his ballot;
302	that the said voter was not solicited or advised by me to vote for
303	any candidate, question or issue, and that the voter, after
304	marking his ballot, placed it in the envelope, closed and sealed
305	the envelope in my presence, and signed * * * the above
306	certificate.
307	
308	(Attesting witness) (Address)
309	
310	(Official title) (City and State)
311	The following must be completed only if the voter has
312	received assistance in marking the enclosed ballot:
313	
314	Signature of person providing assistance
315	
316	Printed name of person providing assistance
317	
318	Address of person providing assistance
319	(2) The envelope used pursuant to this section shall not
320	contain the form prescribed pursuant to Section 23-15-719.
321	SECTION 6. Section 23-15-713, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
322	amended as follows:
323	23-15-713. For the purpose of this subarticle, any duly
324	qualified elector may vote as provided in this subarticle if he be
325	one who falls within the following categories:
326	(a) Any qualified elector who is a bona fide student,

- 327 teacher or administrator at any college, university, junior
- 328 college, high, junior high or elementary grade school whose
- 329 studies or employment at such institution necessitates his absence
- 330 from the county of his voting residence on the date of any
- 331 primary, general or special election, or the spouse and dependents
- 332 of said student, teacher or administrator is such spouse or
- 333 dependent(s) maintain a common domicile, outside of the county of
- 334 his voting residence, with such student, teacher or administrator.
- 335 (b) Any qualified elector who is required to be away
- 336 from his place of residence on any election day due to his
- 337 employment as an employee of a member of the Mississippi
- 338 congressional delegation and the spouse and dependents of such
- 339 person if he or she shall be residing with such absentee voter
- 340 away from the county of the spouse's voting residence.
- 341 (c) Any qualified elector who is away from his county
- 342 of residence on election day.
- 343 (d) Any person who has a temporary or permanent * * *
- 344 disability.
- 345 (e) The parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a
- 346 temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized
- 347 outside of his county of residence or more than fifty (50) miles'
- 348 distant from his residence, if the parent, spouse or dependent
- 349 will be with such person on election day.
- 350 (f) Any person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or
- 351 older.
- 352 (g) Any member of the Mississippi congressional
- 353 delegation absent from Mississippi on election day, and the spouse
- 354 and dependents of such member of the congressional delegation.
- 355 (h) Any qualified elector who will be unable to vote in
- 356 person because he is required to be at work on election day during
- 357 the times at which the polls will be open.
- 358 SECTION 7. Section 23-15-715, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 359 amended as follows:

360 23-15-715. Any elector desiring an absentee ballot as 361 provided in this subarticle may secure same if: 362 Not more than forty-five (45) days nor later than 363 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding elections held on Tuesday, the Thursday immediately preceding elections held on 364 365 Saturday, or the second day immediately preceding the date of elections held on other days, he shall appear in person before the 366 registrar of the county in which he resides, or for municipal 367 elections he shall appear in person before the city clerk of the 368 municipality in which he resides and, when the elector so appears, 369 370 he shall execute and file an application as provided in Section 23-15-627 and vote by absentee ballot, except that if the ballot 371 372 has not been printed by forty-five (45) days preceding the election, the elector may appear and file an application anytime 373 before the election. Then the absentee ballot shall be mailed by 374 375 the circuit clerk to the elector as soon as the ballot has been 376 printed. 377 Within forty-five (45) days next prior to any election, any elector who cannot comply with paragraph (a) of this 378 379 section by reason of temporarily residing outside the county, or any person who has a temporary or permanent physical disability, 380 381 persons who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older, or any person who is the parent, spouse or dependent of a temporarily or 382 383 permanently physically disabled person who is hospitalized outside 384 of his county of residence or more than fifty (50) miles away from his residence and such parent, spouse or dependent will be with 385 386 such person on election day, may make application for an absentee 387 ballot by mailing the appropriate application to the registrar. Only persons temporarily residing out of the county of their 388 residence, persons having a temporary or permanent physical 389 disability, persons who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older, 390 391 or any person who is the parent, spouse or dependent of a temporarily or permanently physically disabled person who is 392

- 393 hospitalized outside of his county of residence or more than fifty
- 394 (50) miles away from his residence, and such parent, spouse or
- 395 dependent will be with such person on election day, may obtain
- 396 absentee ballots by mail under the provisions of this subsection
- 397 and as provided by Section 23-15-713. Applications of persons
- 398 temporarily residing outside the county shall be * * * subscribed
- 399 before an official who is authorized to administer oaths or other
- 400 official authorized to witness absentee balloting as provided in
- 401 this chapter, said application to be accompanied by such verifying
- 402 affidavits as required by this chapter. The applications of
- 403 persons having a temporary or permanent * * * disability shall not
- 404 be required to be accompanied by an affidavit but shall be
- 405 witnessed and signed by a person eighteen (18) years of age or
- 406 older. The registrar shall <u>mail</u> to such absent voter a proper
- 407 absentee voter ballot within twenty-four (24) hours, or as soon
- 408 thereafter as the ballots are available, containing the names of
- 409 all candidates who qualify or the proposition to be voted on in
- 410 such election, and with such ballot there shall be sent an
- 411 official envelope containing upon it in printed form the recitals
- 412 and data hereinafter required. The only method of delivery of
- 413 <u>absentee voter ballots pursuant to this paragraph shall be by</u>
- 414 mail.
- SECTION 8. Section 23-15-719, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 416 amended as follows:
- 417 23-15-719. (1) Immediately upon completion of an
- 418 application filed pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) of
- 419 Section 23-15-715, the registrar shall deliver the necessary
- 420 ballots to the applicant. The elector shall fill in his ballot in
- 421 secret. After the applicant has properly marked the ballot and
- 422 properly folded it, he shall deposit it in the envelope furnished
- 423 him by the registrar.
- 424 After he has sealed the envelope, he shall subscribe * * *
- 425 to an affidavit in the following form, which shall be printed on

426	the back of the envelope containing the applicant's ballot:
427	"STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
428	COUNTY OF
129	I,, <u>declare</u> that this envelope contains the ballot
430	marked by me indicating my choice of the candidates or
431	propositions to be submitted at the election to be held on the
432	day of, 19 * * *.
433	I <u>declare</u> that I marked the enclosed ballot * * *.
434	
435	(Signature of voter)
436	* * * SUBSCRIBED before me,, this the day of
437	, 19
438	(Registrar)
439	(Registrar)"
440	The following must be completed only if the voter has
441	received assistance in marking the enclosed ballot:
442	
443	Signature of person providing assistance
444	
445	Printed name of person providing assistance
446	
147	Address of person providing assistance
448	After the completion of the requirements of this section, the
449	elector shall deliver the envelope containing the ballot to the
450	registrar.
451	(2) The envelope used pursuant to this section shall not
452	contain the form prescribed by Section 23-15-635.
453	SECTION 9. Section 23-15-753, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
454	amended as follows:
455	23-15-753. <u>(1)</u> Any person who willfully, unlawfully and
456	feloniously procures, seeks to procure, or seeks to influence the
457	vote of any person voting by absentee ballot, by the payment of
1 58	money, the promise of payment of money, or by the delivery of any

- 459 other item of value or promise to give $\underline{\text{the}}$ voter any item of
- 460 value, or by promising or giving the voter any favor or reward in
- 461 an effort to influence his vote, or any person who aids, abets,
- 462 assists, encourages, helps, or causes any person voting an
- 463 absentee ballot to violate any provision of law pertaining to
- 464 absentee voting, or any person who sells his vote for money,
- 465 favor, or reward, has been paid or promised money, a reward, a
- 466 favor or favors, or any other item of value, or any person who
- 467 shall willfully swear falsely to any affidavit provided for in
- 468 Sections 23-15-621 through 23-15-735, shall be guilty of the crime
- 469 of "vote fraud" and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a
- 470 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than
- 471 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the
- 472 county jail for no more than one (1) year, or by both * * * fine
- 473 and imprisonment, or by being sentenced to the State Penitentiary
- 474 for not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years.
- 475 (2) A registrar who knowingly and willfully fails to follow
- 476 the procedures required by this article shall be guilty of a
- 477 <u>misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by</u>
- 478 imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or a fine of not
- 479 more than Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00).
- SECTION 10. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
- 481 is hereby directed to submit this act, immediately upon approval
- 482 by the Governor, or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to
- 483 a veto, to the Attorney General of the United States or to the
- 484 United States District Court for the District of Columbia in
- 485 accordance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,
- 486 as amended and extended.
- SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 488 and after January 1, 2000, if it is effectuated under Section 5 of
- 489 the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION OF A PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SHALL ENTITLE SUCH PERSON TO 3 AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR ALL ELECTIONS WITHOUT 4 THE NECESSITY FOR REAPPLICATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REGISTRAR OF 5 EACH COUNTY SHALL KEEP AN ACCURATE LIST OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL SUCH PERSONS AND SHALL DELIVER SUCH LIST TO THE 6 7 COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTION 60 DAYS PRIOR TO SUCH ELECTION WHO SHALL 8 EXAMINE THE LIST AND DELETE FROM IT THE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS 9 LISTED WHO ARE NO LONGER QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE REGISTRAR SHALL SEND A BALLOT TO ALL PERSONS ON 10 THE LIST WHO ARE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTION TO BE 11 QUALIFIED ELECTORS BY NO LATER THAN 40 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION; 12 13 TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-625, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE 14 THAT A REGISTRAR WHO FAILS TO ACCURATELY KEEP A PERMANENT LEDGER SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS AND THE PERSONS 15 16 TO WHOM THE APPLICATIONS ARE GIVEN SHALL BE GUILTY OF A 17 MISDEMEANOR; TO PROVIDE THAT IN NO EVENT SHALL THE REGISTRAR MAIL A BALLOT IN THE SAME ENVELOPE WITH AN APPLICATION; TO AMEND 18 19 SECTION 23-15-627, TO REQUIRE THAT A REPRODUCTION OF AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION SHALL NOT BE VALID UNLESS IT IS A REPRODUCTION 20 21 PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF THE JURISDICTION IN 2.2 WHICH THE ELECTION IS BEING HELD AND CONTAINS THE SEAL AND THE 23 INITIALS OF THE REGISTRAR; TO REQUIRE APPLICATIONS FOR AN ABSENTEE 2.4 BALLOT CONTAIN A SEQUENTIAL APPLICATION NUMBER; TO AMEND SECTION 25 23-15-631, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE PERSONS CASTING 26 AN ABSENTEE BALLOT WHO ARE BLIND, UNABLE TO READ OR WRITE OR 2.7 PHYSICALLY DISABLED TO RECEIVE CERTAIN ASSISTANCE IN CASTING THEIR BALLOT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-635, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE FORM PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THE ABSENTEE BALLOT; TO 28 29 30 AMEND SECTION 23-15-713, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE 31 PERSONS WITH ANY DISABILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-715, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THAT THE 32 33 REGISTRAR MAY ONLY SEND BALLOTS BY MAIL TO PERSONS WHO ARE AUTHORIZED TO VOTE BY MAIL; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-719 34 35 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE FORM PRINTED ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING THE ABSENTEE BALLOT; TO AMEND SECTION 36 37 23-15-753, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT REGISTRARS 38 WHO FAIL TO FOLLOW THE STATUTORY PROCEDURES REGARDING ABSENTEE 39 BALLOTS SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR; AND FOR RELATED 40 PURPOSES.