

By: Bowles

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-369, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DELETE THE PROVISIONS WHICH REQUIRE AN EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF
3 THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE
4 PRINTED ON THE ELECTION BALLOT WHENEVER THE LEGISLATURE PROPOSES A
5 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-369, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 23-15-369. (1) (a) Whenever a constitutional amendment is
10 submitted to the vote of the people, the full text of such
11 amendment shall be printed * * * on the ballot after the list of
12 candidates, if any. * * *

13 (b) * * * The Secretary of State shall give each proposed
14 constitutional amendment a designating number for convenient
15 reference. This number designation shall appear on the ballot.
16 Designating numbers shall be assigned in the order of filing or
17 certification of the amendments. The Secretary of State shall
18 furnish the designating number and the text of each amendment to
19 the circuit clerk of each county in which such amendment is to be
20 voted on.

21 (c) The full text of each proposed constitutional
22 amendment shall be published by the Secretary of State as provided

23 for in Section 7-3-39, and shall be posted prominently in all
24 polling places, with copies of said proposed amendment to be
25 otherwise available at each polling place.

26 (2) Whenever any public measure, question or matter that
27 requires an affirmative or negative vote is submitted to a vote of
28 the electors, the measure or matter shall be printed on the ballot
29 and also the words "FOR" or "AGAINST" to be so arranged by the
30 proper officer so that the voter can intelligently vote his
31 preference.

32 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
33 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
34 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
35 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
36 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
37 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
38 extended.

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