By: Blackmon

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 894

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 13-5-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO 2 REVISE JUROR QUALIFICATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 4 SECTION 1. Section 13-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 5 amended as follows:

13-5-1. Every citizen not under the age of twenty-one years, 6 7 who is either a qualified elector, or a resident freeholder of the county for more than one year, is able to read and write, and has 8 9 not been convicted of an infamous crime, or the unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors within a period of five years and who is not 10 11 an habitual drunkard, is a competent juror. No person who is or 12 has been within twelve months the overseer of a public road or road contractor shall, however, be competent to serve as a grand 13 juror. The lack of any such qualifications on the part of one or 14 more jurors shall not, however, vitiate an indictment or verdict. 15 16 Moreover, no talesman or tales juror shall be qualified who has served as such talesman or tales juror in the last preceding two 17 18 years, and no juror shall serve on any jury who has served as such 19 for the last preceding two years. No juror shall serve who has a case of his own pending in that court, provided there are 20 21 sufficient qualified jurors in the district, and for trial at that 2.2 term.

In order to determine that prospective jurors can read and write, the presiding judge shall, with the assistance of the clerk, distribute to the jury panel a form to be completed personally by each juror prior to being empaneled as follows:

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27	"1. Your name Last First Middle initial
28	2. Your home address
29	3. Your occupation
30	4. Your age
31	5. Your telephone number If none, write none
32	6. If you live outside the county seat, the number of miles
33	you live from the courthouse Miles
34	
35	Sign your name"
36	The judge shall personally examine the answers of each juror
37	prior to empaneling the jury and each juror who cannot complete
38	the above form shall be disqualified as a juror and discharged.
39	A list of any jurors disqualified for jury duty by reason of
40	inability to complete the form shall be kept by the circuit clerk
41	and their names shall not be placed in the jury box thereafter
42	until such person can qualify as above provided.
43	SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
44	and after its passage.