

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 554

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:

6 13-5-1. Every citizen not under the age of eighteen (18)
7 years, who is either a qualified elector, or a resident freeholder
8 of the county for more than one (1) year, is able to read and
9 write, and has not been convicted of an infamous crime, or the
10 unlawful sale of intoxicating liquors within a period of five (5)
11 years and who is not an habitual drunkard, is a competent juror.
12 No person who is or has been within twelve (12) months the
13 overseer of a public road or road contractor shall, however, be
14 competent to serve as a grand juror. The lack of any such
15 qualifications on the part of one or more jurors shall not,
16 however, vitiate an indictment or verdict. Moreover, no talesman
17 or tales juror shall be qualified who has served as such talesman
18 or tales juror in the last preceding two (2) years, and no juror
19 shall serve on any jury who has served as such for the last
20 preceding two (2) years. No juror shall serve who has a case of
21 his own pending in that court, provided there are sufficient
22 qualified jurors in the district, and for trial at that term.

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

27 "1. Your name _____ Last _____ First _____ Middle
28 initial.
29 2. Your home address _____.
30 3. Your occupation _____.
31 4. Your age _____.
32 5. Your telephone number _____ If none, write none.
33 6. If you live outside the county seat, the number of miles
34 you live from the courthouse _____ Miles.

35 _____

36 Sign your name"

37 The judge shall personally examine the answers of each juror
38 prior to empaneling the jury and each juror who cannot complete
39 the above form shall be disqualified as a juror and discharged.

40 A list of any jurors disqualified for jury duty by reason of
41 inability to complete the form shall be kept by the circuit clerk
42 and their names shall not be placed in the jury box thereafter
43 until such person can qualify as above provided.

44 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
45 and after its passage.