H. B. No. 955

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Representative Espy

REGULAR SESSION 2001

To: Apportionment and Elections

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 955

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO REGISTER TO
VOTE; TO AUTHORIZE THE REGISTRAR OF EACH COUNTY TO VISIT EACH
PUBLIC SCHOOL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTERING TO VOTE ANY PERSON
WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE COUNTY; TO PROVIDE THAT REGISTRARS
SHALL PROVIDE MAIL-IN APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE TO
STUDENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 23-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall keep his books open at
his office and shall register the electors of his county at any
time during regular office hours.

(2) The registrar may keep his office open for registration
of voters from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., including the noon hour,
for the five (5) business days immediately preceding the thirtieth
day prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.
The registrar may also keep his office open from 8:00 a.m. until
12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding the thirtieth day
prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.

(3) The registrar, or any deputy registrar duly appointed by
law, may visit and spend such time as he may deem necessary at any
location in his county, selected by the registrar not less than
thirty (30) days before an election, for the purpose of
registering voters.

(4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit
the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such
disability may contact the registrar and request that the
ST: Elections; enhance opportunities for students to register to vote.

registrar or his deputy visit him for the purpose of registering such person to vote. The registrar or his deputy shall visit such person as soon as possible after such request and provide such person with an application for registration, if necessary. The completed application for registration shall be executed in the presence of the registrar or his deputy.

(5) (a) In the fall and spring of each year the registrar of each county shall furnish all public schools with mail-in voter registration applications. Such applications shall be provided in a reasonable time to enable those students who will be eighteen (18) years of age before a general election to be able to vote in the primary and general elections.

(b) Each public school district shall permit access to all public schools of this state for the registrar or his deputy for the purpose of registration of persons eligible to vote and for providing voter education.

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

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