

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 973

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-7-1 AND 23-15-1015,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF
3 CHANCELLORS AND CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
8 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
9 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
10 existed on October 1, 1990. He shall hold court in any other
11 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
12 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
13 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
14 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
15 office shall continue for eight (8) years. A chancellor shall be
16 a resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be
17 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
18 divided into subdistricts.

19 SECTION 2. Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
20 amended as follows:

21 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
22 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
23 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 1990. He
24 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
25 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
26 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
27 the first day of January 1931 and their terms of office shall



28 continue for eight (8) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident
29 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be
30 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
31 divided into subdistricts.

32 SECTION 3. Section 23-15-1015, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 amended as follows:

34 23-15-1015. On Tuesday after the first Monday in November
35 1986, and every eight (8) years thereafter and concurrently with
36 the election for representatives in Congress, there shall be held
37 an election in every county for judges of the several circuit and
38 chancery court districts. The laws regulating the general
39 elections shall, except as otherwise provided for in Sections
40 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, apply to and govern elections of
41 judges of the circuit and chancery courts.

42 SECTION 4. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
43 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
44 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
45 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
46 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
47 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
48 extended.

49 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
51 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, provided that House
52 Concurrent Resolution No. _____, 2001 Regular Session, is
53 ratified by the electorate.

