

By: Senator(s) Lee

To: Judiciary;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2810

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-42, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT  
3 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN  
4 CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth  
9 Circuit Court District; however, from and after January 1, 2003,  
10 there shall be three (3) judges for the Fifteenth Circuit Court  
11 District.

12 (2) For the purposes of the 2002 election only, any  
13 candidates for the third position of Circuit Judge of the  
14 Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall file intent to be a  
15 candidate not later than thirty (30) days prior to the general  
16 election. The qualification and election of the three (3)  
17 judgeships shall otherwise be as provided by Sections 23-15-974  
18 through 23-15-985.

19 SECTION 2. Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
20 amended as follows:

21 23-15-977. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by law,  
22 all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section 23-15-975  
23 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a candidate with  
24 the proper officials not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday  
25 after the first Monday in May prior to the general election for  
26 judicial office and shall pay to the proper officials the  
27 following amounts:

28 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of  
29 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

30 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the  
31 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

32 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,  
33 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

34 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)  
35 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent  
36 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made  
37 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of  
38 Election Commissioners.

39 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)  
40 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a  
41 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to  
42 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper  
43 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners  
44 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a  
45 candidate filed with, and paid the proper assessment to, such  
46 clerk. Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days  
47 and shall contain all necessary information.

48 SECTION 3. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
49 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
50 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
51 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
52 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
53 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
54 extended.

55 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
56 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
57 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, subject to the  
58 availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor by the  
59 Legislature during the 2000 Regular Session or any subsequent  
60 session. It is the intent of the Legislature that this act shall

61 not take effect until the Legislature has funded the  
62 implementation thereof by line item appropriation.