

By: Senator(s) Chamberlin

To: Judiciary;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2909

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
2 9-7-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE THE TWENTY-THIRD  
3 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-45, 9-7-46 AND  
4 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. The following provision shall be codified as  
8 Section 9-7-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 9-7-59. (1) The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall  
10 be comprised of DeSoto County. The initial holder of the circuit  
11 judgeship therefor shall be that judge elected circuit judge from  
12 subdistrict 17-1.

13 (2) From and after January 1, 2003, there shall be two (2)  
14 judges for the Twenty-third Circuit Court District. For the  
15 purposes of appointment and election the two (2) judgeships shall  
16 be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of  
17 appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

18 SECTION 2. Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
19 amended as follows:

20 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall \* \* \*  
21 consist of Panola County, Tallahatchie County, Tate County and  
22 Yalobusha County.

23 SECTION 3. Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
24 amended as follows:

25 9-7-46. \* \* \* There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the  
26 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

27 \* \* \*

28 SECTION 4. From and after the effective date of this act and  
29 until any intervening appointment or election, the two (2) judges  
30 of the Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be those two (2)  
31 judges elected from subdistrict 17-2 in the 1998 general election.  
32 Thereafter, the judges shall be elected or appointed as is  
33 provided for circuit judges generally.

34 SECTION 5. Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
35 amended as follows:

36 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal  
37 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court  
38 districts:

39 (a) First Circuit Court District..... seven (7)  
40 legal assistants.

41 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... nine (9)  
42 legal assistants.

43 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
44 legal assistants.

45 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
46 legal assistants.

47 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
48 legal assistants.

49 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
50 legal assistants.

51 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... nine (9)  
52 legal assistants.

53 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
54 legal assistants.

55 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
56 legal assistants.

57 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
58 legal assistants.

59 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
60 legal assistants.

- 61           (1) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... three (3)  
62 legal assistants.
- 63           (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
64 legal assistants.
- 65           (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... three (3)  
66 legal assistants.
- 67           (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
68 legal assistants.
- 69           (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
70 legal assistants.
- 71           (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
72 legal assistants.
- 73           (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
74 legal assistants.
- 75           (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
76 legal assistants.
- 77           (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
78 legal assistants.
- 79           (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
80 legal assistants.
- 81           (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
82 legal assistants.
- 83           (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District..... three (3)  
84 legal assistants.

85           (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant  
86 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of  
87 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following  
88 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the  
89 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe  
90 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following  
91 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one  
92 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a  
93 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses

94 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such  
95 district pursuant to this subsection:

96 (a) First Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
97 legal assistants.

98 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
99 legal assistants.

100 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
101 legal assistants.

102 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
103 legal assistants.

104 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
105 legal assistants.

106 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
107 legal assistants.

108 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
109 legal assistants.

110 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
111 legal assistants.

112 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
113 legal assistants.

114 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
115 legal assistants.

116 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
117 legal assistants.

118 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
119 legal assistants.

120 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
121 legal assistants.

122 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
123 legal assistants.

124 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
125 legal assistants.

126 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

127 legal assistants.  
128           (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
129 legal assistants.  
130           (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
131 legal assistants.  
132           (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
133 legal assistants.  
134           (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
135 legal assistants.  
136           (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
137 legal assistants.  
138           (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
139 legal assistants.  
140           (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District..... two (2)  
141 legal assistants.

142           (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a  
143 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits  
144 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the  
145 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to  
146 this section.

147           SECTION 6. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
148 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
149 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
150 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
151 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
152 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
153 extended.

154           SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
155 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
156 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.