To: Judiciary

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE                        REGULAR SESSION 2001
By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

SENATE BILL NO. 3003


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

SECTION 1. Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-11. Every inhabitant of this state, except idiots and insane persons, who is a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards, who has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he offers to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated city or town in which he offers to vote, and who shall have been duly registered as an elector pursuant to Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, and who has never been convicted in any court of this state, another state or in any federal court of any felony other than convictions of manslaughter and violations of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the tax laws of this or another state unless the offense also involved misuse or abuse of his office or money coming into his hands by virtue of his office, shall be a qualified elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his residence, and shall be entitled to vote at any election. Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or
older on or before the date of the general election and who is
duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days prior to
the primary election associated with such general election, may
vote in such primary election even though such person has not
reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time such person
offers to vote at such primary election. No others than those
above included shall be entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at
any election.

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

23-15-19. Any person who has been convicted of any crime
described in Section 23-15-11 shall not be registered, or if
registered the name of such person shall be erased from the
registration book on which it may be found by the registrar or by
the election commissioners. Whenever any person shall be
convicted in the circuit court of his county of any of said
crimes, the registrar shall thereupon erase his name from the
registration book; and whenever any person shall be convicted of
any of said crimes in any other court of any county, the presiding
judge thereof shall, on demand, certify the fact in writing to the
registrar, who shall thereupon erase the name of such person from
the registration book and file said certificate as a record of his
office.

amended as follows:

23-15-39. (1) Applications for registration as electors of
this state, which are sworn to and subscribed before the registrar
or deputy registrar authorized by law and which are not made by
mail, shall be made upon a triplicate form in the following words
and figures:

"APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

(You may receive assistance in filling out this form from any
person of your choosing. It is not necessary that this form be
filled out in the presence of the registrar, however, the oath
must be executed in the presence of the registrar or his deputy.)

1. What is your full name, including maiden name, if you
have one? ______________________________________________________

2. Please give your social security number. ______________

3. What is your date of birth? ______________

4. Are you a citizen of the United States? ______________

5. What is your present residence address and each place you
have resided during the past year, stating when you lived at each
place, and specifying the municipality or community, the street
name and number and/or any other designation which accurately
describes the geographic location of your present residence
address?

(a) Present address: __________________________
From ________________ (month) to date.

(b) Previous address: __________________________
From ________ (month) to ________ (month).

(c) Previous address: __________________________
From ________ (month) to ________ (month).

(If you need additional space, use the backside of this
form.)

6. What is your present mailing address? ______________

7. Are you now a resident of this state and county? ______

8. Do you now reside within the city limits of a city or
town located within this county? ______

9. Have you ever registered to vote before in any other
county or state? If so, give the last place or last two (2)
places if registered more than once. ______ ______

10. Have you ever been convicted of the crime of murder,
rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false
pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy or convicted
in any court of any felony other than convictions of manslaughter
and violations of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any
violations of the tax laws of this or another state unless the
offense also involved misuse or abuse of public office or money
coming into your hands by virtue of that office? ______
11. The following questions may be answered by you at your
option and are solely for the purpose of aiding in registering you
in the proper precinct:
(a) Are there any registered voters living at your
present residence? ______ If so, give the name of each such
person. ____________________________
(b) Do you have a telephone at your present residence?
______ If so, give the telephone number of such telephone.
______ Please give your work telephone number. ___________
After you have answered 1 through 11 above, sign or make your
mark on the following oath in the presence of the registrar or
deputy registrar.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF ________
I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am at least eighteen
(18) years old (or I will be before the next general election in
this county), and that I am now in good faith a resident of this
state and of ________ Election Precinct in this county, and that I
am not disqualified from voting by reason of having been convicted
of any crime listed in Question 10 of the application; that I have
truly answered all questions propounded to me in the foregoing
application for registration, and that I will faithfully support
the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of
Mississippi, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.
So help me God.
Applicant sign here: ______________________
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, this the ____ day of
______ 2____.
____________________ (Registrar)
By _________________ (Deputy Registrar)"
The boards of supervisors shall make proper allowances for office supplies reasonably necessitated by the registration of county electors.

(3) If the reply to Question 8 above is affirmative, the county registrar shall forward notice of registration, a copy of the application for registration, and any changes to such registration when they occur, either by certified mail to the clerk of the municipality indicated in the present residence address stated in answer to Question 5(a) above or by personal delivery to such clerk provided that a numbered receipt is signed by such clerk in return for the described documents. Upon receipt of the copy of the application for registration or changes to such registration, and if a review of same indicates that the applicant meets all the criteria necessary to qualify as a municipal elector, then the clerk of said municipality shall make a determination of the municipal voting precinct in which the person making the application shall be required to vote. The clerk shall send this municipal voting precinct information by United States first-class mail, postage prepaid, to such person at the address provided on the application. Any and all mailing costs incurred by the county registrar or the clerk of the municipality in effectuating this subsection shall be paid by the governing authority of such municipality. If a review of the copy of the application for registration or changes to such registration indicates that the applicant is not qualified to vote in said municipality, the clerk of said municipality shall challenge such application. The municipal election commissioners responsible for said municipality shall review any such challenge or disqualification after having notified the applicant by certified mail of such challenge or disqualification.

(4) If the reply to Question 9 above is affirmative, the registrar or clerk shall on a monthly basis send notice of this new registration to the registrar or clerk of the county stated in
Question 9 as the voter's previous place of registration. The election commission of the voter's previous place of registration shall be responsible for having such voter's name erased from the appropriate registration book and pollbook.

(5) The registrar shall issue to the person making the application a copy of such application upon which has been written the county voting precinct in which said person shall vote. The registrar shall assign a voter registration number to such person, which shall be that person's social security number if such a number is provided, and said voter registration number shall be clearly shown on the application.

(6) Any person desiring an application for registration may secure the same from the registrar of the county of which he is a resident and may take said form with him and secure assistance in completing said form from any person of the applicant's choice. It shall be the duty of all registrars to furnish forms for registering to all persons requesting the same, and it shall likewise be his duty to furnish aid and assistance in the completing of said forms when requested by an applicant. The application for registration shall be sworn to and subscribed before the registrar or deputy registrar at the municipal clerk's office, the county registrar's office or any other location where the applicant is allowed to register to vote. No fee or cost shall be charged the applicant by the registrar for accepting the application or administering the oath or for any other duty imposed by law regarding the registration of electors.

(7) The receipt of a copy of the application for registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-35(2) shall be sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector of this state, provided that such application is not challenged as provided for therein.

(8) In any case in which a municipality expands its corporate boundaries by annexation, the municipal clerk shall,
within ten (10) days after the effective date of such annexation, forward to the county registrar a map which accurately depicts the annexed area. The county registrar shall, within ten (10) days after the receipt of such map, forward to the municipal clerk a copy of the most recent county precinct or subprecinct pollbook for the county precincts in which such annexed area is included, or equivalent computer data or information as will permit the identification of county electors who reside in the annexed area. The municipal clerk shall add those county electors who have resided in the annexed area for at least thirty (30) days after annexation to the municipal registration books as registered voters of the municipality and shall forward to such persons written notification of such addition and of the municipal precinct or ward in which such persons reside.

SECTION 4. Section 23-15-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-47. (1) Any person who is qualified to register to vote in the State of Mississippi may register to vote by mail-in application in the manner prescribed in this section.

(2) The following procedure shall be used in the registration of electors by mail:

(a) Any qualified elector may register to vote by mailing or delivering a completed mail-in application to his county registrar at least thirty (30) days prior to any election. The postmark date of a mailed application shall be the date of registration. The application shall be witnessed by one (1) qualified elector in the county of the applicant's residence. The name, address and, if available, the daytime telephone number of the person witnessing the application must be legibly written or printed on the application. The witness shall not be a candidate for public office as of the date of the execution of the application. Any applicant or witness is subject to the penalties provided in Section 23-15-17 for false registration. Any person...
who willfully swears falsely to any material matter on a mail-in
application is guilty of perjury and, upon conviction thereof,
shall be punished as provided in Section 97-9-61.

(b) Upon receipt of a mail-in application, the county
registrar shall stamp such application with the date of receipt,
and shall verify the application by contacting the applicant by
telephone, by personal contact with the applicant, or by any other
method approved by the Secretary of State. Within twenty-five
(25) days of receipt of a mail-in application, the county
registrar shall complete action on the application, including any
attempts to notify the applicant of the status of his application.

(c) If the county registrar determines that the
applicant is qualified and his application is legible and
complete, he shall mail the applicant written notification that
the application has been approved, specifying the county voting
precinct, polling place and supervisor district in which such
person shall vote. This written notification of approval
containing the specified information shall be the voter's
registration card. Said registration cards shall be provided by
the county registrar. The registrar shall assign a voter
registration number to such person, which shall be that person's
social security number if such a number is provided, and said
voter registration number shall be clearly shown on the
application and on the written notification of approval. In
mailing such written notification, the county registrar shall note
the following on the envelope: "DO NOT FORWARD." If any
registration notification form is returned as undeliverable, the
voter's registration shall be void.

(d) A mail-in application shall be rejected for any of
the following reasons:

(i) An incomplete portion of the application which
makes it impossible for the registrar to determine the eligibility
of the applicant to register;
(ii) A portion of the application which is illegible in the opinion of the county registrar and makes it impossible to determine the eligibility of the applicant to register;

(iii) The county registrar is unable to determine, from the address and information stated on the application, the precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the supervisor district in which he is entitled to vote;

(iv) The applicant is not qualified to register to vote pursuant to Section 23-15-11;

(v) The registrar determines that the applicant is registered as a qualified elector of the county;

(vi) The county registrar is unable to verify the application pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(e) If the mail-in application of a person is subject to rejection for any of the reasons set forth in paragraphs (d)(i) through (iii) of this subsection, and it appears to the registrar that the defect or omission is of such a minor nature and that any necessary additional information may be supplied by the applicant over the telephone or by further correspondence, the registrar may write or call the applicant at the telephone number provided on the application. If the registrar is able to contact the applicant by mail or telephone, he shall attempt to ascertain the necessary information and if this information is sufficient for the registrar to complete the application, the applicant shall be registered. If the necessary information cannot be obtained by mail or telephone or is not sufficient, the registrar shall give the applicant written notice of the rejection and provide the reason for such rejection. The registrar shall further inform the applicant that he has a right to attempt to register by appearing in person or by filing another mail-in application.

(f) If a mail-in application is subject to rejection for the reason stated in paragraph (d)(v) of this subsection and
the "present home address" portion of the application is different from the residence address for the applicant found in the registration book, the mail-in application shall be deemed a written request to transfer registration pursuant to Section 23-15-13. Subject to the time limits and other provisions of Section 23-15-13, the registrar or the election commissioners shall note the new residence address on his records and, if necessary, transfer the applicant to his new precinct, advise the applicant of his new precinct, polling place and supervisor district, and notify the municipal clerk of any such changes on a monthly basis.

(3) The instructions and the application form for voter registration by mail shall be in the following form and shall contain the following information:

"INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION"

1. Anyone may assist you in completing the enclosed application.

2. A registered voter of your county who is not now a candidate for public office must complete and sign the 'Witness Signature and Certification' portion of the enclosed application.

3. All required information must be supplied in legible form.

4. The completed application must be mailed or delivered to the registrar of your county at least thirty (30) days before an election in order for you to be registered for that election. Applications which are mailed must be postmarked thirty (30) days prior to any election.

5. The penalty for conviction of false registration is a felony punishable by a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) or imprisonment for not more than five (5) years, or both."

"APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION BY MAIL"

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

S. B. No. 3003
01/SS01/R1157
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I, ____________________, hereby apply for registration as a voter of ____________ County, Mississippi.

1. Full Name, including maiden name if you have one:
   ____________________ (First, Middle and/or Maiden, Last)

2. Male ___  Female ___

3. Please give your Social Security Number: ______________

4. Date of Birth: ______________  4a. Age: _____

5. Present Home Address:
   (a) ______________________________ (Street and Number)
       ______________________________ (City, State, Zip)
   (b) How long have you lived there?
       From _________________ (month/year) to present.
   (c) Do you now live in a city or town of this county? ______  If so, which? __________
   (d) Telephone number, if available:
       (i) Home telephone number _________________
       (ii) Daytime or work telephone number _________________

6. Mailing Address: Give your current mailing address if different from your present home address:
   ___________________________(Box or Street and Number)
   ___________________________(City, State, Zip)

7. Previous Address: List your most recent address before your present address:
   ___________________________(Box or Street and Number)
   ___________________________(City, State, Zip)
   From _______ (month/year) to _________ (month/year)

8. Last Registration: Have you ever registered to vote before in any other county in Mississippi or in any other state?
   _______ If yes, give the last place you were registered:
   _____________________________ (City, County, State)

9. Citizenship, Residence, Prior Convictions:
   (a) Are you a citizen of the United States? _______
   (b) Are you a resident of this state and county? ______
(c) Have you ever been convicted of the crime of murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, or bigamy, or convicted in any court of any felony? ___ If so, what State______, County______, Date of conviction______.

10. Will you need assistance on election day?_____. If yes, for which of the following reasons: permanently physically disabled_____; other (please describe)______________________________.

Applicant Signature and Certification:

I certify that I am at least eighteen (18) years old (or I will be before the next general election), that the above information given by me is true and correct and that I have truly answered all questions in the foregoing application for registration, and that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Mississippi, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

Applicant sign here: _____________________
Date: _____________________

Witness Signature and Certification:

I certify that I am a registered voter in _____________ County, Mississippi, that I am not now a candidate for public office, and that the above named applicant signed this application for registration in my presence. I further certify that I have read the above application, and that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I personally know the person who appeared before me or I have seen the person's identification. I understand that the penalty for knowingly procuring a person's registration who is not entitled to be registered, or is registered under a false name or in any other voting precinct than that in which he resides, is a fine of not
more than Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) or imprisonment for
not more than five (5) years, or both.

Witness sign here: _______________________  

Full name and address of witness (Print):  

Name: ___________________________________

Address: ________________________________ (Street and Number)

_________________________ (City, State, Zip)  

Telephone number, if available:  

Home telephone number ____________

Daytime or work telephone number ________

(4)  (a)  The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish without charge the necessary forms for application for voter registration by mail to each county registrar, municipal clerk, all public schools, each private school that requests such applications, and all public libraries.

(b)  The Secretary of State shall distribute without charge sufficient forms for application for voter registration by mail to the Commissioner of Public Safety, who shall distribute such forms to each driver's license examining and renewal station in the state, and shall ensure that the forms are regularly available to the public at such stations.

(c)  Bulk quantities of forms for application for voter registration by mail shall be furnished by the Secretary of State to any person or organization. The Secretary of State shall charge a person or organization the actual cost he incurs in providing bulk quantities of forms for application for voter registration to such person or organization.

(5)  The originals of completed mail-in applications shall remain on file in the office of the county registrar in accordance with Section 23-15-113. Nothing in this section shall preclude having applications on microfilm or microfiche.

(6)  If the reply to question 5(c) above is affirmative, the county registrar shall forward notice of registration, a duplicate
copy of the application for registration, and any changes to such registration when they occur, either by certified mail to the clerk of the municipality indicated in the present residence address stated in answer to Question 5(c) above or by personal delivery to such clerk, provided that a numbered receipt is signed by such clerk in return for the described documents. Upon receipt of the copy of the application for registration or changes to such registration, and if a review of same indicates that the applicant meets all the criteria necessary to qualify as a municipal elector, then the clerk of said municipality shall register the applicant as a municipal elector and make a determination of the municipal voting precinct in which the person making the application shall be required to vote. The clerk shall send this municipal voting precinct information by United States first-class mail, postage prepaid, to such person at the address provided on the application. Any and all mailing costs incurred by the county registrar or the clerk of the municipality in effectuating this subsection shall be paid by the governing authority of such municipality. If a review of the copy of the application for registration or changes to such registration indicates that the applicant is not qualified to vote in said municipality, the clerk of said municipality shall deny such application and notify applicant.

(7) If the reply to Question 8 above is affirmative, the registrar or clerk shall send written notice of this new registration by regular United States mail to the registrar or clerk of the county stated in Question 8 as the voter's previous place of registration. The information shall include the complete name, address and age of the voter and shall include the social security number of such voter if it has been previously supplied. The election commission of the voter's previous place of registration shall be responsible for having such voter's name erased from the appropriate registration book and pollbook.
SECTION 5. Section 23-15-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-151. The circuit clerk of each county is authorized and directed to prepare and keep in his office a full and complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of any crime described in Section 23-15-11. Said clerk shall enter the names of all persons who have been or shall be hereafter convicted of any crime described in Section 23-15-11 in a book prepared and kept for that purpose. The board of supervisors of each county shall, as early as practicable, furnish the circuit clerk of their county with a suitable book for the enrollment of said names showing the name, date of birth, address, court, crime and date of conviction. Said roll, when so prepared, shall be compared with the registration book before each election commissioner of the county. A certified copy of any enrollment by one clerk to another will be sufficient authority for the enrollment of such name, or names, in another county.

SECTION 6. Section 23-15-299, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-299. (1) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of Section 23-15-297 and assessments made pursuant to paragraph (d) of Section 23-15-297 for legislative offices shall be paid by each candidate to the Secretary of the State Executive Committee with which the candidate is affiliated by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in which the primary election for the office is held or on the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the office, whichever is earlier.

(2) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e) of Section 23-15-297, other than assessments made for legislative offices, shall be paid by each candidate to the circuit clerk of such candidate's county of residence by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in which the primary election for the office is held or on the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the office.
office, whichever is earlier; provided, however, that no such
assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in which the
election for the office is held. The circuit clerk shall forward
the fee and all necessary information to the secretary of the
proper county executive committee within two (2) business days.

(3) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of
Section 23-15-297 must be paid by each candidate to the Secretary
of the State Executive Committee with which the candidate is
affiliated by 5:00 p.m. sixty (60) days before the presidential
primary in years in which a presidential preference
primary is held. Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and
g of Section 23-15-297, in years when a presidential preference
primary is not being held, shall be paid by each candidate to the
Secretary of the State Executive Committee with which the
candidate is affiliated by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in
which the primary election for the office is held.

(4) (a) The fees paid pursuant to subsections (1), (2) and
(3) of this section shall be accompanied by a written statement
containing the name and address of the candidate, the party with
which he or she is affiliated and the office for which he or she
is a candidate.

(b) The State Executive Committee shall transmit to the
Secretary of State a copy of the written statements accompanying
the fees paid pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
All copies must be received by the Office of the Secretary of
State by not later than 6:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying
deadline; provided, however, the failure of the Office of the
Secretary of State to receive such copies by 6:00 p.m. on the date
of the qualifying deadline shall not affect the qualification of a
person who pays the required fee and files the required statement
by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline. The name of
any person who pays the required fee and files the required
statement after 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline
shall not be placed on the primary election ballot.

(5) The secretary or circuit clerk to whom such payments are
made shall promptly receipt for same stating the office for which
such candidate making payment is running and the political party
with which he or she is affiliated, and he or she shall keep an
itemized account in detail showing the exact time and date of the
receipt of each payment received by him or her and, where
applicable, the date of the postmark on the envelope containing
the fee and from whom, and for what office the party paying same
is a candidate.

(6) The secretaries of the proper executive committee shall
hold said funds to be finally disposed of by order of their
respective executive committees. Such funds may be used or
disbursed by the executive committee receiving same to pay all
necessary traveling or other necessary expenses of the members of
the executive committee incurred in discharging their duties as
committeemen, and of their secretary and may pay the secretary
such salary as may be reasonable.

(7) Upon receipt of the proper fee and all necessary
information, the proper executive committee shall then determine
whether each candidate is a qualified elector of the state, state
district, county or county district which they seek to serve, and
whether each candidate meets all other qualifications to hold the
office he is seeking or presents absolute proof that he will,
subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on or before
the date of the general or special election at which he could be
elected to office. The committee also shall determine whether any
candidate has been convicted of any * * * crime described in
Section 23-15-11. If the proper executive committee finds that a
candidate either (a) is not a qualified elector, (b) does not meet
all qualifications to hold the office he seeks and fails to
provide absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that he will
meet the qualifications on or before the date of the general or special election at which he could be elected, or (c) has been convicted of a crime as described in this subsection, and not pardoned, then the name of such candidate shall not be placed upon the ballot.

Where there is but one (1) candidate for each office contested at the primary election, the proper executive committee when the time has expired within which the names of candidates shall be furnished shall declare such candidates the nominees.

(8) No candidate may qualify by filing the information required by this section by using the internet.

SECTION 7. Section 23-15-309, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-309. (1) Nominations for all municipal officers which are elective shall be made at a primary election, or elections, to be held in the manner prescribed by law. All persons desiring to be candidates for the nomination in the primary elections shall first pay Ten Dollars ($10.00) to the clerk of the municipality, at least sixty (60) days prior to the first primary election, no later than 5:00 p.m. on such deadline day.

(2) The fee paid pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be accompanied by a written statement containing the name and address of the candidate, the party with which he is affiliated, and the office for which he is a candidate.

(3) The clerk shall promptly receive the payment, stating the office for which the person making the payment is running and the political party with which such person is affiliated. The clerk shall keep an itemized account in detail showing the time and date of the receipt of such payment received by him, from whom such payment was received, the party with which such person is affiliated and for what office the person paying the fee is a candidate. The clerk shall promptly supply all necessary information and pay over all fees so received to the secretary of
the proper municipal executive committee. Such funds may be used
and disbursed in the same manner as is allowed in Section
23-15-299 in regard to other executive committees.

(4) Upon receipt of the above information, the proper
municipal executive committee shall then determine whether each
candidate is a qualified elector of the municipality, and of the
ward if the office sought is a ward office, shall determine
whether each candidate either meets all other qualifications to
hold the office he is seeking or presents absolute proof that he
will, subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on or
before the date of the general or special election at which he
could be elected to office. The committee also shall determine
whether any candidate has been convicted of any **crime**
described in Section 23-15-11. If the proper municipal executive
committee finds that a candidate either (a) does not meet all
qualifications to hold the office he seeks and fails to provide
absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that he will meet the
qualifications on or before the date of the general or special
election at which he could be elected, or (b) has been convicted
of a **crime** as described in this subsection and not pardoned, then
the name of such candidate shall not be placed upon the ballot.

(5) Where there is but one (1) candidate, the proper
municipal executive committee when the time has expired within
which the names of candidates shall be furnished shall declare
such candidate the nominee.

SECTION 8. Section 23-15-689, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

23-15-689. The registrar, on application requesting
registration by an absent voter, as defined in this subarticle,
shall forward immediately the proper registration blank to the
absent voter so that such absent voter may register as a voter and
vote in any elections held in the voting precinct in which such
absent voter would be entitled to vote if otherwise qualified.
Such person shall subscribe an affidavit to be administered by any officer of the armed forces, Merchant Marine, or constituted authority or officer authorized to administer an oath. Said officers may administer the oath hereinbelow prescribed and certify to it. Said officer or registrant shall mail said registration immediately to the registrar of the county set out in said registration in order that the registrant may be registered thirty (30) days before any general election or special election at which he may offer to vote. Said registrant shall be considered as registered from and after the date of the affidavit.

The oath to be taken by the said person shall be as follows:

"I, ______________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am at least eighteen (18) years old (or will be before the next election in this county), and that I am now in good faith a resident of the State of Mississippi and in ______________ Election Precinct of ______________ County, and that I am not disqualified from voting by reason of having been convicted of any crime of murder, rape, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement or bigamy, or of any felony other than manslaughter and violations of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the tax laws of this or another state; that I will truly answer all questions propounded to me concerning my antecedents so far as they relate to my right to vote, and also as to my residence prior to my citizenship in this precinct; that I will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Mississippi, and will bear true faith and allegiance to the same. So help me God. SIGNED ______________

"SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, ______________, on the ______________ day of _____________, A.D., ____________.

______________ (Official title, civilian or military officer)"
Upon receipt of the foregoing registration filled out and sworn to in the proper form, the registrar of the county shall place the applicant's name on the registration books, if the statements are found to be true, noting on the back of the affidavit that it is an absentee registration. The registrar shall file the application as a matter of record in his office. The registrar of the county shall certify to the registrar of municipal registration names of applicants who have qualified under this section, and the municipal registrar shall duly register all names so certified upon the registration books of the municipality.

SECTION 9. 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 10. 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.