

By: Representatives Rogers, Weathersby,
Moore (60th), Smith (59th)

To: Judiciary A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 605

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 9-9-18, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL COUNTY COURT JUDGE FOR RANKIN COUNTY; AND
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
6 9-9-18, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 9-9-18. (1) In order to relieve the crowded condition of
8 the docket in the county court and in the youth court of Rankin
9 County and particularly to facilitate and make possible the trial
10 and disposition of the large number of causes on the docket and in
11 the youth court, there shall be two (2) county judges for Rankin
12 County, Mississippi, provided for and elected as herein set out.

13 (2) For the purposes of nomination and election, the two (2)
14 judgeships shall be separate and distinct, the presently existing
15 judgeship and its succession to be denominated for purposes of
16 appointment, nomination and election only as "Place One" and the
17 judgeship hereby created and its succession for said selfsame
18 purposes and none other to be designated as "Place Two." There
19 shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers, duties and
20 emoluments of the two (2) offices of county judge, except that the
21 county judge of Rankin County who has been for the longest time
22 continuously a county judge of the county shall have the right to
23 assign causes, terms and dockets. Should neither judge of the
24 county court have served longer in office than the other, then
25 that judge of this county court who has been for the longest time
26 a member of the Mississippi Bar shall have the right to assign
27 causes, terms and dockets.



28 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
29 powers and duties of the county judges other than as cast upon
30 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the County Court
31 of Rankin County may, in the discretion of the county judge who
32 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of the court,
33 be divided into civil, equity, criminal and youth court divisions
34 as a matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the
35 minutes of the court.

36 (4) The two (2) county judges shall be elected at the time
37 and in the same manner now prescribed by law for the existing
38 county court judgeship of Rankin County.

39 (5) The Board of Supervisors of Rankin County may, in its
40 discretion, set aside, appropriate and expend monies from the
41 general fund to be used in the payment of salaries of judges,
42 clerks, reporters, officers and employees of the youth court
43 division of the county court, including the related facilities of
44 the youth court division of the county court, and such funds shall
45 be expended for no other purposes. The county shall not be
46 reimbursed for the amount of any such levy provided for by this
47 section under the terms of the Homestead Exemption Law.

48 **SECTION 2.** 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 3.** 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.

