

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

To: Judiciary A

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 said docket and  
11 in the youth court, there shall be two (2) county judges for  
12 Rankin County, Mississippi, provided for and elected as herein set  
13 out.

14 (2) For the purposes of nomination and election, the two (2)  
15 judgeships shall be separate and distinct, the presently existing  
16 judgeship and its succession to be denominated for purposes of  
17 appointment, nomination and election only as "Place One" and the  
18 judgeship hereby created and its succession for said selfsame  
19 purposes and none other to be designated as "Place Two." There  
20 shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers, duties and  
21 emoluments of the two (2) offices of county judge, except that the  
22 county judge of Rankin County who has been for the longest time  
23 continuously a county judge of said county shall have the right to  
24 assign causes, terms and dockets.

25 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the  
26 powers and duties of the said county judges other than as cast  
27 upon them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the County



28 Court of Rankin County may, in the discretion of the county judge  
29 who has been for the longest time continuously a judge of said  
30 court, be divided into civil, equity, criminal and youth court  
31 divisions as a matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon  
32 the minutes of the court.

33 (4) The two (2) county judges shall be elected a the time  
34 and in the same manner now prescribed by law for the existing  
35 county court judgeship of Rankin County.

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

45 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
46 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
47 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
48 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
49 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
50 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
51 extended.

52 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
53 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
54 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

