

By: Representative Reeves

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 978

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 9-9-18, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ESTABLISH AN ADDITIONAL COUNTY COURT JUDGE FOR RANKIN COUNTY; TO
3 AMEND SECTION 43-21-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ABOLISH THE
4 YOUTH COURT IN PEARL, MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
7 9-9-18, Mississippi Code of 1972:

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

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

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



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

34 (4) The additional judge provided by this act shall be
35 appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the
36 Senate and the judge shall serve for a term of ten (10) years.
37 The judge shall be eligible for reappointment.

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

47 **SECTION 2.** Section 43-21-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
48 amended as follows:

49 43-21-107. * * *

50 (1) A youth court division is hereby created as a division
51 of the county court of each county now or hereafter having a
52 county court and which does not have a family court, and the
53 county judge shall be the judge of the youth court unless another
54 judge is named by the county judge as provided by this chapter.

55 (2) A youth court division is hereby created as a division
56 of the chancery court of each county in which no county court or
57 family court is maintained and any chancellor within a chancery
58 court district shall be the judge of the youth court of that
59 county within such chancery court district unless another judge is
60 named by the senior chancellor of the county or chancery court
61 district as provided by this chapter.



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63 **SECTION 3.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
64 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
65 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
66 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
67 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
68 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
69 extended.

70 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
72 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

