HOUSE BILL NO. 978

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43-21-107. * * *

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

(2) A youth court division is hereby created as a division of the chancery court of each county in which no county court or family court is maintained and any chancellor within a chancery court district shall be the judge of the youth court of that county within such chancery court district unless another judge is named by the senior chancellor of the county or chancery court district as provided by this chapter.
SECTION 3. 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 4. 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.