

By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Elections;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2366

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE STATEWIDE CENTRALIZED VOTER SYSTEM TO  
 2 ASSIST COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTION IN MAINTAINING ACCURATE VOTER  
 3 ROLLS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL DEVELOP,  
 4 IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY  
 5 OF STATE SHALL PROCURE SERVICES NECESSARY TO CONVERT THE CURRENT  
 6 VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS OF THE COUNTY INTO A STANDARD, INDUSTRY  
 7 ACCEPTED FILE FORMAT THAT CAN BE USED ON THE STATEWIDE CENTRALIZED  
 8 VOTER SYSTEM; TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ESTABLISH AN  
 9 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS,  
 10 PROCUREMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SYSTEM; TO  
 11 EXEMPT CERTAIN INFORMATION IN THE SYSTEM FROM THE MISSISSIPPI  
 12 PUBLIC RECORDS ACT OF 1983; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 23-15-139 AND  
 13 23-15-140, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR A STATEWIDE  
 14 VOTER REGISTRATION RECORD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** The purposes of this act are:

17 (a) To establish a centralized statewide qualified  
 18 voter file that consists of all qualified electors who are  
 19 registered to vote;

20 (b) To enhance the uniformity of the administration of  
 21 elections by creating and maintaining a centralized statewide file  
 22 of qualified voters;

23 (c) To increase the efficiency and decrease the cost of  
 24 maintaining voter registration records and implementing the  
 25 National Voter Registration Act of 1993;

26 (d) To increase the integrity of the voting process by  
 27 compiling a single centralized qualified voter file from county  
 28 voter roll data that will permit the name of each citizen of this  
 29 state to appear only once; and

30 (e) To apply technology and information gathered by  
 31 principal executive departments of state government, state  
 32 agencies and local voter registrars in a manner that ensures that  
 33 accurate and current records of qualified voters are maintained



34 and to secure cooperation among all state entities to develop  
35 systems and processes that are interfaced with Centralized  
36 Statewide Voter System.

37 **SECTION 2.** (1) From and after July 1, 2002, the Office of  
38 the Secretary of State shall begin to procure, implement and  
39 maintain an electronic information processing system and programs  
40 capable of maintaining a centralized database of all registered  
41 voters in the state. The system shall encompass software and  
42 hardware, at both the state and county level, software development  
43 training, conversion and support and maintenance for the system.  
44 This system shall be known as the "Statewide Centralized Voter  
45 System" and shall constitute the official record of registered  
46 voters in every county of the state.

47 (2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall develop and  
48 implement the Statewide Centralized Voter System so that the  
49 commissioners of election of each county shall:

50 (a) Verify that an applicant that is registering to  
51 vote in such county is not registered to vote in another county;

52 (b) Be notified automatically that a registered voter  
53 in its county has registered to vote in another county;

54 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of  
55 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes that apply to  
56 voters registered in the county; and

57 (d) Implement such other functionality as the state and  
58 counties consider necessary to enhance the maintenance of accurate  
59 county voter records.

60 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the  
61 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall procure  
62 services necessary to convert current voter registration records  
63 in the counties into a standard, industry accepted file format  
64 that can be used on the Statewide Centralized Voter System.  
65 Thereafter, all official voter information shall be maintained on  
66 the Statewide Centralized Voter System.



67           (4) The Secretary of State may adopt rules and regulations  
68 necessary to administer the Statewide Centralized Voter System.  
69 Such rules and regulations shall at least:

70           (a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a  
71 centralized database for all voter registration information in the  
72 state;

73           (b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the  
74 centralized database;

75           (c) Provide security to insure that only county  
76 commissioners of election can add information to, delete  
77 information from and modify information in the system;

78           (d) Provide local and state election officials access  
79 to the system for all purposes related to their official duties;

80           (e) Provide security and protection of all information  
81 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized  
82 access is not allowed;

83           (f) Provide a procedure that will allow commissioners  
84 of election to identify the precinct to which a voter should be  
85 assigned; and

86           (g) Provide a procedure for phasing in or converting  
87 existing manual and computerized voter registration systems in  
88 counties to the Statewide Centralized Voter System.

89           (5) The Secretary of State shall establish an advisory  
90 committee to assist in developing system specifications,  
91 procurement, implementation and maintenance of the Statewide  
92 Centralized Voter System. The committee shall include local  
93 election officials as a majority of its membership.

94           (6) (a) Social security numbers, telephone numbers and date  
95 of birth and age information in statewide, district, county and  
96 municipal voter registration files shall be exempt from and shall  
97 not be subject to inspection, examination, copying or reproduction  
98 under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983.



99 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal  
100 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,  
101 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be  
102 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public  
103 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of  
104 production.

105 **SECTION 3.** Sections 23-15-139 and 23-15-140, Mississippi  
106 Code of 1972, which provide for a statewide voter registration  
107 record, are hereby repealed.

108 **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
109 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
110 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
111 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
112 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
113 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
114 extended.

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

