

By: Senator(s) Bryan

To: Elections;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2366  
(As Passed the Senate)

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, in cooperation with county election  
39 officials, shall begin to procure, implement and maintain an  
40 electronic information processing system and programs capable of  
41 maintaining a centralized database of all registered voters in the  
42 state. The system shall encompass software and hardware, at both  
43 the state and county level, software development training,  
44 conversion and support and maintenance for the system. This  
45 system shall be known as the "Statewide Centralized Voter System"  
46 and shall constitute the official record of registered voters in  
47 every county of the state.

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

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

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

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

58 (d) Retain all present functionality relating to the  
59 use of voter roll data and implement such other functionality as  
60 the state and counties consider necessary to enhance the  
61 maintenance of accurate county voter records and related jury  
62 selection and redistricting programs.

63 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the  
64 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall procure  
65 services necessary to convert current voter registration records  
66 in the counties into a standard, industry accepted file format



67 that can be used on the Statewide Centralized Voter System.  
68 Thereafter, all official voter information shall be maintained on  
69 the Statewide Centralized Voter System.

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

73 (a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a  
74 centralized database for all voter registration information in the  
75 state;

76 (b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the  
77 centralized database;

78 (c) Provide security to insure that only the  
79 appropriate county election officials can add information to,  
80 delete information from and modify information in the system;

81 (d) Provide appropriate local election officials access  
82 to the system for all purposes related to their official duties,  
83 including, but not limited to, exclusive access for the purpose of  
84 printing of all local pollbooks;

85 (e) Provide security and protection of all information  
86 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized  
87 access is not allowed;

88 (f) Provide a procedure that will allow the appropriate  
89 county election officials to identify the precinct and subprecinct  
90 to which a voter should be assigned; and

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

94 (5) The Secretary of State shall establish an advisory  
95 committee to assist in developing system specifications,  
96 procurement, implementation and maintenance of the Statewide  
97 Centralized Voter System. The committee shall include local  
98 election officials as seventy-five percent (75%) of its  
99 membership.



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

105           (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal  
106 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,  
107 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be  
108 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public  
109 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of  
110 production.

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

114           **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
115 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
116 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
117 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
118 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
119 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
120 extended.

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

