

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th)

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2649

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-22, 9-7-20 AND 23-15-983,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CHANCELLORS OF THE  
3 SIXTH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT AND THE JUDGES OF THE FIFTH CIRCUIT  
4 COURT DISTRICT SHALL RUN BY POSTS RATHER THAN "IN THE HERD"; AND  
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth  
10 Chancery Court District. For the purposes of appointment and  
11 election the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and  
12 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election  
13 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

14 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit  
17 Court District. For the purposes of appointment and election the  
18 two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated  
19 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
20 "Place Two."

21 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-983, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
22 amended as follows:

23 23-15-983. At the general election, the candidates equal to  
24 the number of positions to be filled and having the highest votes  
25 shall be elected.

26 Any tie votes in the general election which must be resolved  
27 in order to determine who is elected shall be resolved in the  
28 manner prescribed by Sections 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.



29           The provisions of this section shall apply only to districts  
30 and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except for the  
31 Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth and Twentieth Chancery Court  
32 Districts and the Second, Fifth, Eighth and Nineteenth Circuit  
33 Court Districts.

34           **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
35 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
36 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
37 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
38 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
39 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
40 extended.

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

