

By: Senator(s) Stogner

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2947

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 13-5-2 AND 13-5-26, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
2 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE MASTER LIST OF POTENTIAL JURORS MAY  
3 BE DRAWN FROM ENTIRE CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT FOR TRIALS CONDUCTED  
4 IN CIRCUIT COURT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 13-5-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 13-5-2. It is the policy of this state that all persons  
9 selected for jury service be selected at random from a fair cross  
10 section of the population of the area served by the court, or, if  
11 applicable, from the entire circuit court district, and that all  
12 qualified citizens have the opportunity in accordance with this  
13 chapter to be considered for jury service in this state and an  
14 obligation to serve as jurors when summoned for that purpose. A  
15 citizen shall not be excluded from jury service in this state on  
16 account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or  
17 economic status.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 13-5-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
19 amended as follows:

20 13-5-26. (1) The circuit clerk shall maintain a jury box  
21 and shall place therein the names or identifying numbers of all  
22 prospective jurors drawn from the jury wheel.

23 (2) A judge or any court or any other state or county  
24 official having authority to conduct a trial or hearing with a  
25 jury within the county may direct the circuit clerk to draw and  
26 assign to that court or official the number of jurors he deems  
27 necessary for one or more jury panels or as required by law for a  
28 grand jury, except as otherwise provided by subsection (3) of this



29 section. Upon receipt of the direction, and in a manner  
30 prescribed by the court, the circuit clerk shall publicly draw at  
31 random from the jury box the number or jurors specified.

32 (3) The court may order that the drawing and assigning of  
33 jurors pursuant to subsection (2) of this section may be performed  
34 by random selection of a computer or electronic device pursuant to  
35 such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the court. The  
36 jurors drawn for jury service shall be assigned at random by the  
37 clerk to each jury panel in a manner prescribed by the court.

38 (4) The senior circuit judge by order duly spread on the  
39 minutes of the court of each county comprising the circuit court  
40 district may order the jury commission of each county comprising  
41 the circuit court district to meet jointly in April of each year  
42 and more often if necessary to compile a district-wide master list  
43 of potential jurors. The number of names to be placed in the jury  
44 wheel from each contributing county shall be proportional to the  
45 relationship of the population of each county to the population of  
46 the district as a whole. In any circuit court district in which  
47 the senior judge has entered an order under this subsection,  
48 juries for trials in the circuit courts of the counties in that  
49 circuit court district shall be drawn by the circuit clerk from  
50 the district-wide master list compiled pursuant to the authority  
51 of this subsection, applying by analogy insofar as possible the  
52 requirements of this chapter as relate to the selection of  
53 potential jurors. Any juror or potential juror so summoned to be  
54 and appear outside his county of residence shall be obliged to  
55 fulfill the obligation as if summoned by the circuit clerk of the  
56 county in which he lives.

57 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
58 and after July 1, 2002.

