Adopted AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

Senate Bill NO. 2970

By Representative(s) Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. Section 23-15-193, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 2.9 amended as follows: 30 23-15-193. (1) At the election in 1995, and every four (4) 31 32 years thereafter, there shall be elected a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State 33 34 Treasurer, Attorney General, three (3) public service commissioners, three (3) Mississippi Transportation Commissioners, 35 Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture and 36 37 Commerce, Senators and members of the House of Representatives in the Legislature, district attorneys for the several districts, 38 clerks of the circuit and chancery courts of the several counties, 39 as well as sheriffs, coroners, assessors, surveyors and members of 40 the boards of supervisors * * * and constables, and all other 41 officers to be elected by the people at the general state 42 election. All * * * officers shall hold their offices for a term 43 of four (4) years, and until their successors are elected and 44 qualified. The state officers shall be elected in the manner 45 prescribed in Section 140 of the Constitution. 46

(2) Justice court judges shall be elected at the time for

the election of the officers provided in subsection (1) of this

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- 49 section. The election of justice court judges shall be
- 50 <u>nonpartisan</u>. If no candidate for such office receives a majority
- of the votes cast for such office in the general election, the
- 52 names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of
- 53 votes for such office shall be placed on the ballot for a second
- 54 <u>election to be held three (3) weeks later in accordance with</u>
- 55 appropriate procedures followed in other elections involving
- 56 <u>runoff candidates.</u>
- 57 SECTION 2. Section 23-15-197, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 58 amended as follows:
- 59 23-15-197. (1) Times for holding primary and general
- 60 elections for congressional offices shall be as prescribed in
- 61 Sections 23-15-1031, 23-15-1033 and 23-15-1041.
- 62 (2) Times for holding elections for the office of judge of
- 63 the Supreme Court shall be as prescribed in Section 23-15-991 and
- 64 Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985.
- 65 (3) Times for holding elections for the office of circuit
- 66 court judge, the office of chancery court judge and the office of
- 67 <u>justice court judge</u> shall be as prescribed in Sections 23-15-974
- 68 through 23-15-985 and Section 23-15-1015.
- 69 (4) Times for holding elections for the office of county
- 70 election commissioners shall be as prescribed in Section
- 71 23-15-213.
- 72 SECTION 3. Section 23-15-297, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 73 amended as follows:
- 74 23-15-297. Any candidate * * * entering the race for party
- 75 nominations for office shall first pay to the proper officer as
- 76 provided for in Section 23-15-299 for each primary election the
- 77 following amounts:
- 78 (a) Candidates for Governor not to exceed Three Hundred
- 79 Dollars (\$300.00).
- 80 (b) Candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
- 81 General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public
- 82 Accounts, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture
- 83 and Commerce, State Highway Commissioner and State Public Service

- 84 Commissioner, not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).
- 85 (c) Candidates for district attorney, not to exceed One
- 86 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- 87 (d) Candidates for State Senator, State Representative,
- 88 sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, tax assessor, tax
- 89 collector, county attorney, county superintendent of education and
- 90 board of supervisors, not to exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).
- 91 (e) Candidates for county surveyor, county
- 92 coroner * * * and constable, not to exceed Ten Dollars (\$10.00).
- 93 (f) Candidates for United States Senator, not to exceed
- 94 Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).
- 95 (g) Candidates for United States Representative, not to
- 96 exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).
- 97 **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-359, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 98 amended as follows:
- 99 23-15-359. (1) The ballot shall contain the names of all
- 100 party nominees certified by the appropriate executive committee,
- 101 and independent and special election candidates who have timely
- 102 filed petitions containing the required signatures. A petition
- 103 requesting that an independent or special election candidate's
- 104 name be placed on the ballot for any office shall be filed as
- 105 provided for in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, as
- 106 appropriate, and shall be signed by not less than the following
- 107 number of qualified electors:
- 108 (a) For an office elected by the state at large, not
- 109 less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors.
- 110 (b) For an office elected by the qualified electors of
- 111 a Supreme Court district, not less than three hundred (300)
- 112 qualified electors.
- 113 (c) For an office elected by the qualified electors of
- 114 a congressional district, not less than two hundred (200)
- 115 qualified electors.
- 116 (d) For an office elected by the qualified electors of
- 117 a circuit or chancery court district, not less than one hundred
- 118 (100) qualified electors.

- (e) For an office elected by the qualified electors of a senatorial or representative district, not less than fifty (50) qualified electors.
- 122 (f) For an office elected by the qualified electors of 123 a county, not less than fifty (50) qualified electors.
- 124 (g) For an office elected by the qualified electors of 125 a supervisors district or justice court district, not less than 126 fifteen (15) qualified electors.
- (2) Unless the petition required above shall be filed as 127 provided for in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, as 128 129 appropriate, the name of the person requested to be a candidate, unless nominated by a political party, shall not be placed upon 130 131 the ballot. The ballot shall contain the names of each candidate for each office, and such names shall be listed under the name of 132 the political party such candidate represents as provided by law 133 and as certified to the circuit clerk by the State Executive 134 135 Committee of such political party. In the event such candidate qualifies as an independent as herein provided, he shall be listed 136 on the ballot as an independent candidate. 137

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- (3) Petitions for offices described in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of this section, and petitions for offices described in paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of this section for districts composed of more than one (1) county or parts of more than one (1) county, shall be filed with the State Board of Election Commissioners by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date by which candidates for nominations in the political party primary elections are required to pay the fee provided for in Section 23-15-297, Mississippi Code of 1972.
- (4) Petitions for offices described in paragraphs (f) and
 (g) of subsection (1) of this section, and petitions for offices
 described in paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of this section for
 districts composed of one (1) county or less, shall be filed with
 the proper circuit clerk by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same
 date by which candidates for nominations in the political party
 elections are required to pay the fee provided for in Section
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- 154 23-15-297; provided, however, that no petition may be filed before
- 155 January 1 of the year in which the election for the office is
- 156 held. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners of
- 157 election of all persons who have filed petitions with such clerk.
- 158 Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days and
- 159 shall contain all necessary information.
- 160 (5) The commissioners may also have printed upon the ballot
- 161 any local issue election matter that is authorized to be held on
- 162 the same date as the regular or general election pursuant to
- 163 Section 23-15-375; provided, however, that the ballot form of such
- 164 local issue must be filed with the commissioners of election by
- 165 the appropriate governing authority not less than sixty (60) days
- 166 previous to the date of the election.
- 167 (6) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
- 168 municipal elections or to the election of the offices of justice
- 169 of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit
- 170 judge, chancellor, county court judge and justice court judge.
- 171 (7) Nothing in this section shall prohibit special elections
- 172 to fill vacancies in either house of the Legislature from being
- 173 held as provided in Section 23-15-851. In all elections conducted
- 174 under the provisions of Section 23-15-851 the commissioner shall
- 175 have printed on the ballot the name of any candidate who, not
- 176 having been nominated by a political party, shall have been
- 177 requested to be a candidate for any office by a petition filed
- 178 with said commissioner by 5:00 p.m. not less than ten (10) working
- 179 days prior to the election, and signed by not less than fifty (50)
- 180 qualified electors.
- 181 (8) The appropriate election commission shall determine
- 182 whether each candidate is a qualified elector of the state, state
- 183 district, county or county district they seek to serve, and
- 184 whether each candidate meets all other qualifications to hold the
- 185 office he is seeking or presents absolute proof that he will,
- 186 subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on or before
- 187 the date of the general or special election at which he could be
- 188 elected to office. The election commission also shall determine

- whether any candidate has been convicted of any felony in a court 189 190 of this state, or has been convicted on or after December 8, 1992, of any offense in another state which is a felony under the laws 191 192 of this state, or has been convicted of any felony in a federal court on or after December 8, 1992. Excepted from the above are 193 194 convictions of manslaughter and violations of the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the tax laws of this 195 state, unless the offense also involved misuse or abuse of his 196 office or money coming into his hands by virtue of his office. If 197 the appropriate election commission finds that a candidate either 198 199 (a) is not a qualified elector, (b) does not meet all qualifications to hold the office he seeks and fails to provide 200 201 absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that he will meet the qualifications on or before the date of the general or special 202 election at which he could be elected, or (c) has been convicted 203 of a felony as described in this subsection, and not pardoned, 204 then the name of such candidate shall not be placed upon the
- If after the deadline to qualify as a candidate for an 207 208 office or after the time for holding any party primary for an office, there shall be only one (1) person who has duly qualified 209 210 to be a candidate for the office in the general election, the name of such person shall be placed on the ballot. 211
- (10) The petition required by this section may not be filed 212 by using the internet. 213
- SECTION 5. Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 214 215 amended as follows:
- 23-15-973. It shall be the duty of the judges of the circuit 216 court to give a reasonable time and opportunity to the candidates 217 for the office of judge of the Supreme Court, judges of the Court 218 of Appeals, circuit judge, chancellor and justice court judge to 219 220 address the people during court terms. In order to give further and every possible emphasis to the fact that the * * * judicial 221 222 offices are not political but are to be held without favor and with absolute impartiality as to all persons, and because of the 223

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jurisdiction conferred upon the courts by this chapter, the judges
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     thereof should be as far removed as possible from any political
     affiliations or obligations. It shall be unlawful for any
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     candidate for any of the offices mentioned in this section to
     align himself with any candidate or candidates for any other
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     office or with any political faction or any political party at any
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     time during any primary or general election campaign. Likewise it
     shall be unlawful for any candidate for any other office nominated
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     or to be nominated at any primary election, wherein any candidate
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     for any of the judicial offices in this section mentioned, is or
     are to be nominated, to align himself with any one or more of the
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     candidates for the offices or to take any part whatever in any
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     nomination for any one or more of \underline{\text{the}} judicial offices, except to
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     cast his individual vote. Any candidate for any office, whether
     nominated with or without opposition, at any primary wherein a
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     candidate for any one of the judicial offices * * * mentioned \underline{\text{in}}
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     this section is to be nominated who shall deliberately, knowingly
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     and willfully violate the provisions of this section shall forfeit
     his nomination, or if elected at the following general election by
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     virtue of said nomination, his election shall be void.
          SECTION 6. Section 23-15-975, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
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     amended as follows:
          23-15-975. As used in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985
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     of this subarticle, the term "judicial office" includes the office
     of justice of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals,
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     circuit judge, chancellor, county court judge, family court judge
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     and justice court judge. All * * * justices and judges, except
     justice court judges, shall be full-time positions and the
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     justices and judges shall not engage in the practice of law before
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     any court, administrative agency or other judicial or
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     quasi-judicial forum except as provided by law for finalizing
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     pending cases after election to judicial office.
          SECTION 7. Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
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     amended as follows:
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23-15-977. (1) All candidates for judicial office as

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- 259 defined in Section 23-15-975 of this subarticle shall file their
- 260 intent to be a candidate with the proper officials not later than
- 261 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday after the first Monday in May prior
- 262 to the general election for judicial office and shall pay to the
- 263 proper officials the following amounts:
- 264 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of
- 265 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).
- 266 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the
- 267 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
- 268 (c) Candidates for county judge and <u>justice</u> court
- 269 judge, the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).
- 270 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
- 271 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
- 272 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
- 273 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
- 274 Election Commissioners.
- 275 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)
- 276 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
- 277 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
- 278 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
- 279 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
- 280 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
- 281 candidate filed with, and paid the proper assessment to, such
- 282 clerk. Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days
- 283 and shall contain all necessary information.
- SECTION 8. Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 285 amended as follows:
- 286 9-5-7. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the First
- 287 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
- 288 the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
- 289 <u>denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as</u>
- 290 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."
- SECTION 9. Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 292 amended as follows:
- 293 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the $HR03\SB2970A.J$

- 294 Third Chancery Court District.
- 295 (2) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected from
- 296 DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2 shall
- 297 be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County,
- 298 Tate County and Yalobusha County. For purposes of appointment and
- 299 <u>election the two (2) chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be</u>
- 300 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
- 301 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."
- 302 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 303 amended as follows:
- 304 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
- 305 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
- 306 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
- 307 <u>denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as</u>
- 308 "Place One" and "Place Two."
- 309 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 310 amended as follows:
- 311 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
- 312 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
- 313 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
- 314 <u>denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as</u>
- 315 "Place One" and "Place Two."
- 316 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 317 amended as follows:
- 318 9-5-54. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
- 319 Eighteenth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
- 320 and election the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
- 321 <u>distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election</u>
- 322 <u>only as "Place One" and "Place Two."</u>
- 323 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 324 amended as follows:
- 9-7-7. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the First
- 326 Circuit Court District.
- 327 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the three
- 328 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for

- 329 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
- 330 Two" and "Place Three."
- 331 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 332 amended as follows:
- 333 9-7-14. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
- 334 Third Circuit Court District.
- 335 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 336 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 337 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 338 "Place Two."
- 339 **SECTION 15.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 340 amended as follows:
- 341 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
- 342 Circuit Court District.
- 343 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 344 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 345 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 346 "Place Two."
- 347 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 348 amended as follows:
- 349 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
- 350 Circuit Court District.
- 351 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 352 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 353 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 354 <u>"Place Two."</u>
- 355 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 356 amended as follows:
- 357 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
- 358 comprised of the following counties:
- 359 (a) Lincoln County;
- 360 (b) Pike County; and
- 361 (c) Walthall County.
- 362 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
- 363 Court District.

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364 (3) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
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- 365 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 366 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 367 <u>"Place Two."</u>
- 368 (4) From and after December 31, 2005, in addition to the two
- 369 (2) judgeships provided in this section there shall be one (1)
- 370 judgeship in the subdistrict comprised of the following precincts
- 371 <u>in the following counties:</u>
- 372 (a) Lincoln County: Alexander Jr. High, East Lincoln,
- 373 Forrestry, Fair River, Government Complex, High School, Little
- 374 Bahala, Big Springs, New Pearlhaven, Brignal, Rogers Circle,
- 375 Enterprise, Boque Chitto, Ruth and Norfield Precincts;
- 376 (b) Pike County: Precincts 4, 6, 14, 20, 16, 7, 10,
- 377 10A, 6A, 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 18; and
- 378 <u>(c) Walthall County: West Tylertown, North Knoxo,</u>
- 379 Sartinville, Darbun, Varnell, District 4 West, Enon, Dinan, Hope
- 380 <u>and St. Paul Precincts.</u>
- 381 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 382 amended as follows:
- 383 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
- 384 Circuit Court District.
- 385 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 386 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 387 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 388 <u>"Place Two."</u>
- 389 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 390 amended as follows:
- 391 9-7-44. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixteenth
- 392 Circuit Court District.
- 393 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 394 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 395 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 396 "Place Two."
- 397 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 398 amended as follows:

- 399 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
- 400 divided into $\underline{\text{three (3)}}$ subdistricts as follows:
- 401 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto
- 402 County; * * *
- 403 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of * * * Tate County
- 404 and the following precincts from Panola County: East Sardis, East
- 405 Como, Pleasant Mount, Cold Springs, Pope, Courtland, Batesville 3,
- 406 Coles Point, North Springport, South Springport, Eureka, East
- 407 Batesville 4, West Batesville 4, Fern Hill, North Batesville A and
- 408 <u>East Batesville 5; and</u>
- 409 (c) Subdistrict 17-3 shall consist of Tallahatchie
- 410 County, Yalobusha County and the following precincts from Panola
- 411 County: West Sardis, West Como, Longtown, Crenshaw, Pleasant
- 412 Grove, South Sardis, Belmont-Hebron, Curtis, North Asa, East
- 413 Crowder, Tocowa and North Batesville B.
- 414 SECTION 21. Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 415 amended as follows:
- 416 9-7-46. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
- 417 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.
- 418 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the three
- 419 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and one (1) judge
- 420 shall be elected from <u>each subdistrict</u>.
- 421 SECTION 22. Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 422 amended as follows:
- 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
- 424 Circuit Court District.
- 425 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
- 426 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
- 427 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
- 428 <u>"Place Two."</u>
- 429 **SECTION 23.** Section 23-15-982, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 430 amended as follows:
- 23-15-982. (1) Majority of vote equals any excess of the
- 432 total vote for all candidates divided by the number of judgeships
- 433 to be filled divided by two (2).

- If some or all candidates in a multijudge election do not
- 435 receive a majority of the vote, then candidates equal in number to
- 436 twice the number of remaining positions to be filled and having
- 437 the highest votes shall run in a runoff election. In such event,
- 438 if there is not a sufficient number of remaining candidates equal
- 439 to twice the number of remaining positions to be filled, then all
- 440 remaining candidates shall run in the runoff election.
- 441 (2) Any tie votes which require resolution to determine who
- 442 shall enter a runoff election shall be determined by the
- 443 commissioners of election in the manner prescribed by Sections
- 444 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.
- Candidates equal to the remaining number of positions to be
- 446 filled who have the highest votes in the runoff election are
- 447 elected.
- Any tie votes which must be determined in order to decide who
- 449 is elected as a result of a runoff election shall be determined by
- 450 the State Election Commission in the manner prescribed by Sections
- 451 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.
- 452 (3) The provisions of this section shall apply only to
- 453 districts and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except
- 454 for the First, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Sixteenth,
- 455 <u>Eighteenth</u> and Twentieth Chancery Court Districts <u>and Subdistrict</u>
- 456 3-2 of the Third Chancery Court District and the First, Second,
- 457 Third, Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,
- 458 Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court Districts.
- 459 **SECTION 24.** Section 23-15-983, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 460 amended as follows:
- 23-15-983. At the general election, the candidates equal to
- the number of positions to be filled and having the highest votes
- 463 shall be elected.
- Any tie votes in the general election which must be resolved
- 465 in order to determine who is elected shall be resolved in the
- 466 manner prescribed by Sections 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.
- The provisions of this section shall apply only to districts
- 468 and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except for the

- 469 First, Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and
- 470 Twentieth Chancery Court Districts and Subdistrict 3-2 of the
- 471 Third Chancery Court District and the First, Second, Third, Fifth,
- 472 Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Nineteenth and
- 473 <u>Twentieth</u> Circuit Court Districts.
- 474 **SECTION 25.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
- 475 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
- 476 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
- 477 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
- 478 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
- 479 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
- 480 extended.
- 481 **SECTION 26.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 482 and after January 1, 2003, or the date it is effectuated under
- 483 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
- 484 extended, whichever date is later.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-193, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT JUSTICE COURT JUDGES SHALL BE ELECTED AT THE 2. GENERAL STATE ELECTION IN A NONPARTISAN MANNER WITH A RUNOFF TWO 4 WEEKS LATER IF NECESSARY; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-297, MISSISSIPPI 5 CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE JUSTICE COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES FROM THE 6 LIST OF CANDIDATES REQUIRED TO PAY A FEE UPON ENTERING AN ELECTION 7 FOR PARTY NOMINATION; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-359, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THIS SECTION, WHICH REQUIRES THE NAMES OF 8 9 ALL CANDIDATES NOMINATED FOR OFFICE TO BE PRINTED ON THE BALLOT, 10 SHALL NOT APPLY TO JUSTICE COURT JUDGES; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT JUSTICE COURT JUDGES SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ADDRESS THE PEOPLE DURING COURT 11 12 TERMS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-975 AND 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE 13 OF 1972, TO INCLUDE JUSTICE COURT JUDGES UNDER THE NONPARTISAN 14 JUDICIAL ELECTION ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-197, MISSISSIPPI 15 16 CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-7, 9-5-13, 9-5-22, 9-5-40 AND 9-5-54, MISSISSIPPI 17 18 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION BY POSTS OF CHANCELLORS IN 19 CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-7, 9-7-14, 9-7-20, 9-7-32, 9-7-39, 9-7-42, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46 AND 9-7-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR POSTS IN THE FIRST, 20 21 THIRD, FIFTH, TENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH AND 22 23 TWENTIETH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO PROVIDE A SUBDISTRICT IN THE FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2005; TO 24 PROVIDE FOR SUBDISTRICTS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT 25 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-982 AND 23-15-983, MISSISSIPPI 26 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 2.7