

By: Representative Scott (80th)

To: Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1299

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-505, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JASPER COUNTY TO PURCHASE
3 CERTAIN OPTICAL MARK READING EQUIPMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-505, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 23-15-505. The board of supervisors of any county in the
8 State of Mississippi and the governing authorities of any
9 municipality in the State of Mississippi are hereby authorized and
10 empowered, in their discretion, to purchase or rent optical mark
11 reading equipment used in an electronic voting system which meets
12 the requirements of Section 23-15-507 and may use such system in
13 all or a part of the precincts within its boundaries. It may
14 enlarge, consolidate or alter the boundaries of precincts where an
15 electronic voting system is used. The provisions of this chapter
16 shall be controlling with respect to elections where any OMR
17 system is used, and shall be liberally construed so as to carry
18 out the purpose of this chapter. The provisions of the election
19 law relating to the conduct of elections with paper ballots, that
20 are to be manually tabulated, insofar as they are applicable and
21 not in conflict with the efficient conduct of the systems, shall
22 apply.

23 The Board of Supervisors of Jasper County shall purchase
24 optical mark reading equipment to scan ballots at the polling
25 places, provided that such purchase is paid for out of federal
26 funds administered and made available through the Office of the
27 Secretary of State.



28 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
29 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
30 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
31 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
32 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
33 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
34 extended.

35 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
37 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

