

By: Senator(s) Dawkins (By Request)

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2480

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-3-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2004, THE POSITION OF CHIEF  
3 JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL BE ROTATED AMONG THE SENIOR  
4 JUDGES OF EACH SUPREME COURT DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE THAT A SENIOR  
5 JUDGE SHALL HOLD THE POSITION FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE THE POSITION IS  
6 ROTATED TO THE SENIOR JUDGE OF ANOTHER DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE THE  
7 ORDER IN WHICH THE POSITION SHALL BE ROTATED; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
8 SENIOR JUDGES FROM THE SUPREME COURT DISTRICTS WHO ARE NOT SERVING  
9 AS CHIEF JUSTICE SHALL BE PRESIDING JUSTICES; AND FOR RELATED  
10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-3-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

14 9-3-11. (1) The judge of each Supreme Court district who  
15 has been for the longest time continuously a member of the court  
16 in the district from which he is elected shall be the senior judge  
17 of such district.

18 (2) The position of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
19 be held by a senior judge of one (1) of the Supreme Court  
20 districts for a term of two (2) years and such position shall be  
21 rotated among the senior judges of each Supreme Court District in  
22 the following order:

23 (a) The Second Supreme Court District;

24 (b) The Third Supreme Court District;

25 (c) The First Supreme Court District.

26 (3) The senior judges from each Supreme Court district who  
27 are not serving as chief justice shall be presiding justices.

28 (4) In case of the absence of the chief justice, the  
29 presiding justice who has been for the longest time continuously a  
30 member shall preside.



31           (5) In the event that two (2) or more judges of the Supreme  
32 Court shall have served as members of the Supreme Court for equal  
33 periods of time, then seniority shall be determined according to  
34 the length of time that such judges shall have been members of The  
35 Mississippi \* \* \* Bar.

36           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
37 and after January 1, 2004.

