

By: Senator(s) Williamson

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2724

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-7, 9-5-13, 9-5-22, 9-5-40 AND
2 9-5-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION BY POSTS
3 OF CHANCELLORS IN CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO AMEND
4 SECTIONS 9-7-7, 9-7-14, 9-7-20, 9-7-32, 9-7-39, 9-7-42, 9-7-44 AND
5 9-7-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR POSTS IN CERTAIN
6 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 23-15-982 AND
7 23-15-983, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE
8 CALCULATION OF VOTE IN MULTIJUDGE DISTRICTS WHEREIN CANDIDATES RUN
9 "IN THE HERD"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

13 9-5-7. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the First
14 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
15 the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
16 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
17 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:

20 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
21 Third Chancery Court District.

22 (2) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected from
23 DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2 shall
24 be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County,
25 Tate County and Yalobusha County. For purposes of appointment and
26 election the two (2) chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be
27 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
28 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

29 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
30 amended as follows:



31 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
32 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
33 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
34 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
35 "Place One" and "Place Two."

36 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
37 amended as follows:

38 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
39 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
40 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
41 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
42 "Place One" and "Place Two."

43 **SECTION 5.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
44 amended as follows:

45 9-5-54. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
46 Eighteenth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
47 and election the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
48 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
49 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

50 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
51 amended as follows:

52 9-7-7. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the First
53 Circuit Court District.

54 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the three
55 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
56 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
57 Two" and "Place Three."

58 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
59 amended as follows:

60 9-7-14. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
61 Third Circuit Court District.

62 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
63 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for



64 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
65 "Place Two."

66 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
67 amended as follows:

68 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
69 Circuit Court District.

70 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
71 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
72 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
73 "Place Two."

74 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
75 amended as follows:

76 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
77 Circuit Court District.

78 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
79 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
80 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
81 "Place Two."

82 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
83 amended as follows:

84 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
85 comprised of the following counties:

- 86 (a) Lincoln County;
- 87 (b) Pike County; and
- 88 (c) Walthall County.

89 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
90 Court District.

91 (3) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
92 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
93 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
94 "Place Two."

95 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
96 amended as follows:



97 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
98 Circuit Court District.

99 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
100 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
101 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
102 "Place Two."

103 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
104 amended as follows:

105 9-7-44. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixteenth
106 Circuit Court District.

107 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
108 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
109 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
110 "Place Two."

111 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
112 amended as follows:

113 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
114 Circuit Court District.

115 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the two (2)
116 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
117 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
118 "Place Two."

119 **SECTION 14.** Sections 23-15-982 and 23-15-983, Mississippi
120 Code of 1972, which provide for the calculation of the vote in
121 multijudge districts in which candidates run "in the herd" are
122 repealed.

123 **SECTION 15.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
124 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
125 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
126 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
127 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
128 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
129 extended.



130 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
131 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
132 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

