

By: Senator(s) Turner

To: Judiciary; Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2870

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3, 9-5-5, 9-5-7,
 2 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-13, 9-5-15, 9-5-17, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22,
 3 9-5-23, 9-5-25, 9-5-27, 9-5-29, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-36,
 4 9-5-37, 9-5-38, 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47,
 5 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-51, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55, 9-5-57, 9-5-58,
 6 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-5, 9-7-7, 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-14, 9-7-15,
 7 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-27, 9-7-29,
 8 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32, 9-7-33, 9-7-34, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39,
 9 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-43, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-47, 9-7-49,
 10 9-7-51, 9-7-53, 9-7-54, 9-7-55 AND 9-7-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 11 1972, TO REDISTRIBUTE THE TRIAL COURTS AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 152 OF
 12 THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 15 brought forward as follows:

16 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
 17 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
 18 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
 19 existed on October 1, 1990. He shall hold court in any other
 20 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
 21 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
 22 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
 23 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
 24 office shall continue for four (4) years; provided, however, that
 25 the terms of all chancellors elected at the regular election in
 26 November 2002 shall begin on the first day of January 2003, and
 27 their terms of office shall continue for six (6) years. A
 28 chancellor shall be a resident of the district in which he serves
 29 but shall not be required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the
 30 district is divided into subdistricts.

31 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 32 brought forward as follows:



33 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
34 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and
35 comprised of the counties as set forth in the sections which
36 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
37 _____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
38 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
39 twice a year. From and after January 1, 1995, the dates upon
40 which court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting
41 of a single county shall be the same dates state agencies and
42 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
43 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
44 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
45 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
46 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
47 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
48 such terms if the interest of justice so requires.

49 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
50 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
51 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
52 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
53 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
54 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
55 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
56 shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery court
57 district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of
58 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
59 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
60 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
61 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
62 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain
63 unchanged for the next calendar year.



64 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
65 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
66 following criteria:

- 67 (a) The population of the district;
- 68 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 69 (c) The case load of each chancellor in the district;
- 70 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 71 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
72 court personnel of the district; and
- 73 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

74 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
75 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
76 the appropriate:

- 77 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
78 applying the above criteria;
- 79 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
80 data; and
- 81 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

82 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
83 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
84 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
85 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
86 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
87 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
88 the longest time a member of the Mississippi Bar, shall be the
89 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
90 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
91 of more than one (1) county.

92 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
93 brought forward as follows:

94 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District shall be comprised
95 of the following counties:

- 96 (a) Alcorn County;



- 97 (b) Itawamba County;
- 98 (c) Lee County;
- 99 (d) Monroe County;
- 100 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 101 (f) Prentiss County;
- 102 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 103 (h) Union County.

104 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
105 brought forward as follows:

106 9-5-7. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the First
107 Chancery Court District.

108 **SECTION 5.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
109 brought forward as follows:

110 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised
111 of the following counties:

- 112 (a) Jasper County;
- 113 (b) Newton County; and
- 114 (c) Scott County.

115 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
116 brought forward as follows:

117 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be
118 comprised of the following counties:

- 119 (a) DeSoto County;
- 120 (b) Grenada County;
- 121 (c) Montgomery County;
- 122 (d) Panola County;
- 123 (e) Tate County; and
- 124 (f) Yalobusha County.

125 (2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into
126 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 127 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.



128 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
129 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
130 County.

131 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
132 brought forward as follows:

133 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
134 Third Chancery Court District.

135 (2) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected from
136 DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2 shall
137 be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County,
138 Tate County and Yalobusha County.

139 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
140 brought forward as follows:

141 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be
142 comprised of the following counties:

- 143 (a) Amite County;
- 144 (b) Franklin County;
- 145 (c) Pike County; and
- 146 (d) Walthall County.

147 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
148 brought forward as follows:

149 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be
150 comprised of Hinds County.

151 (2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
152 the following four (4) subdistricts:

153 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
154 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
155 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
156 10, 32, 47 and 97.

157 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
158 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
159 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
160 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.



161 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
162 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
163 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
164 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64.

165 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
166 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
167 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram, Cayuga,
168 Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5,
169 Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Old
170 Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

171 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
172 brought forward as follows:

173 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
174 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
175 elected from each subdistrict.

176 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
177 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
178 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
179 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
180 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
181 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
182 the court.

183 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
184 brought forward as follows:

185 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
186 of the following counties:

- 187 (a) Attala County;
- 188 (b) Carroll County;
- 189 (c) Choctaw County;
- 190 (d) Kemper County;
- 191 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 192 (f) Winston County.



193 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
194 brought forward as follows:

195 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
196 Chancery Court District.

197 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
198 brought forward as follows:

199 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be
200 comprised of the following counties:

- 201 (a) Bolivar County;
- 202 (b) Coahoma County;
- 203 (c) Leflore County;
- 204 (d) Quitman County;
- 205 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 206 (f) Tunica County.

207 (2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
208 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 209 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
210 Coahoma County;
- 211 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
212 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

213 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
214 brought forward as follows:

215 9-5-25. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventh
216 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
217 each subdistrict.

218 **SECTION 15.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
219 brought forward as follows:

220 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be
221 comprised of the following counties:

- 222 (a) Hancock County;
- 223 (b) Harrison County; and
- 224 (c) Stone County.



225 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
226 brought forward as follows:

227 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
228 Eighth Chancery Court District.

229 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
230 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
231 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
232 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

233 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
234 powers and duties of said chancellors other than as cast upon them
235 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
236 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
237 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of
238 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
239 court.

240 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
241 brought forward as follows:

242 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be
243 comprised of the following counties:

- 244 (a) Humphreys County;
- 245 (b) Issaquena County;
- 246 (c) Sharkey County;
- 247 (d) Sunflower County;
- 248 (e) Warren County; and
- 249 (f) Washington County.

250 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
251 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

252 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
253 precincts in the following counties:

- 254 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North,
255 Indianola 3 South, Ruleville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale, Rome,
256 Sunflower Plantation, Drew and Ruleville North Precincts; and



257 (ii) Washington County: Buster Brown Community
258 Center, Extension Building, Faith Lutheran Church, Brent Center,
259 William Percy Library, American Legion, Metcalf City Hall, Elks
260 Club, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Light and Water
261 Plant and Greenville Industrial College Precincts.

262 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
263 and the following precincts in the following counties:

264 (i) Sunflower County: Inverness, Indianola 1,
265 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East, Sunflower, Indianola
266 3 Northeast and Doddsville Precincts; and

267 (ii) Washington County: St. James Episcopal
268 Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic,
269 Italian Club, Ward's Recreation Center, Avon Health Center, Arcola
270 City Hall, Kapco Co., Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist
271 Church, Mangelardi Bourbon Store and Grace Methodist Church
272 Precincts.

273 (c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County,
274 Sharkey County and Warren County.

275 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
276 brought forward as follows:

277 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
278 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
279 each subdistrict.

280 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
281 brought forward as follows:

282 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
283 of the following counties:

- 284 (a) Forrest County;
- 285 (b) Lamar County;
- 286 (c) Marion County;
- 287 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 288 (e) Perry County.



289 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
290 brought forward as follows:

291 9-5-36. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
292 Tenth Chancery Court District.

293 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
294 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
295 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
296 Two" and "Place Three," respectively. The chancellor to fill
297 Place One shall be a resident of Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl
298 River or Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Two shall be
299 a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County. The
300 chancellor to fill Place Three shall be a resident of Forrest
301 County. Election of the three (3) offices of chancellor shall be
302 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
303 Court District of Mississippi.

304 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
305 brought forward as follows:

306 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be
307 comprised of the following counties:

- 308 (a) Holmes County;
- 309 (b) Leake County;
- 310 (c) Madison County; and
- 311 (d) Yazoo County.

312 (2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
313 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 314 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
315 Yazoo County and Canton Precinct 4, Canton Precinct 5, Smith
316 School, Magnolia Heights and Flora Precincts of Madison County;
- 317 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
318 Farmhaven, Madisonville, Trace Harbor, Canton Precinct 1, Canton
319 Precinct 2, Canton Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 6, Cameron Street,
320 Bear Creek, Madison, Ridgeland, Gluckstadt, Lorman/Cavalier,



321 Virililia, Cameron, Couparle, Camden and Sharon Precincts of
322 Madison County.

323 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
324 brought forward as follows:

325 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh
326 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
327 each subdistrict.

328 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
329 brought forward as follows:

330 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be
331 comprised of the following counties:

332 (a) Clarke County; and

333 (b) Lauderdale County.

334 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
335 brought forward as follows:

336 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
337 Chancery Court District.

338 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
339 brought forward as follows:

340 9-5-41. The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be
341 comprised of the following counties:

342 (a) Covington County;

343 (b) Jefferson Davis County;

344 (c) Lawrence County;

345 (d) Simpson County; and

346 (e) Smith County.

347 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
348 brought forward as follows:

349 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
350 comprised of the following counties:

351 (a) Chickasaw County;

352 (b) Clay County;

353 (c) Lowndes County;



- 354 (d) Noxubee County;
355 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
356 (f) Webster County.

357 (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
358 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

359 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
360 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
361 West Starkville, Adaton, North Longview, Self Creek, Double
362 Springs, Northeast Starkville, East Starkville, North Starkville,
363 Maben, South Starkville, South Longview, Craig Springs, Bradley,
364 Center Grove and Sturgis Precincts.

365 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
366 precincts in the following counties:

367 (i) Clay County: Vinton, East West Point, Siloam,
368 Central West Point, South West Point and Cedar Bluff Precincts;
369 and

370 (ii) Lowndes County: Caledonia, Steens A, Steens
371 B, Caldwell, Stokes Beard B, Fairview, Sale, Rural Hill B, Lee
372 High, Brandon, Franklin, Air Base A, Air Base B, Air Base C,
373 Steens C, Rural Hill A, New Hope A, Mitchell, New Hope B, Union
374 Academy A and University A Precincts.

375 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
376 and the following precincts in the following counties:

377 (i) Clay County: North West Point, Union Star,
378 Tibbee, Cairo, Caradine, Una, West West Point, Pheba and Pine
379 Bluff Precincts;

380 (ii) Lowndes County: Stokes Beard A, Fair
381 Grounds, Coleman, Plum Grove A, Crawford A, Hunt B, Hunt A, Union
382 Academy B, University B, West Lowndes, Artesia, Mayhew, Crawford
383 B, Crawford C, New Hope C and Plum Grove B Precincts; and

384 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Osborn, Hickory Grove,
385 Bell Schoolhouse, Central Starkville, Gillespie Street Center,
386 Sessums and Oktoc Precincts.



387 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
388 brought forward as follows:

389 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
390 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
391 elected from each subdistrict.

392 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
393 brought forward as follows:

394 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be
395 comprised of the following counties:

- 396 (a) Copeiah County; and
- 397 (b) Lincoln County.

398 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
399 brought forward as follows:

400 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be
401 comprised of the following counties:

- 402 (a) George County;
- 403 (b) Greene County; and
- 404 (c) Jackson County.

405 **SECTION 30.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
406 brought forward as follows:

407 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
408 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

409 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three
410 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
411 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One,"
412 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

413 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
414 brought forward as follows:

415 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall
416 be comprised of the following counties:

- 417 (a) Adams County;
- 418 (b) Claiborne County;
- 419 (c) Jefferson County; and



420 (d) Wilkinson County.

421 (2) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
422 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

423 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
424 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
425 Maryland Heights, Palestine, Northside School, Thompson, Pine
426 Ridge, Airport, Anchorage and Washington Precincts.

427 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
428 and the following precincts in Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass
429 Fire Station, Cloverdale, Bellemont, Carpenter No. 1, Duncan Park,
430 Beau Pre, Kingston, Concord, Liberty Park, Morgantown and Oakland
431 Precincts.

432 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
433 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
434 each subdistrict.

435 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
436 brought forward as follows:

437 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be
438 comprised of the following counties:

- 439 (a) Benton County;
- 440 (b) Calhoun County;
- 441 (c) Lafayette County;
- 442 (d) Marshall County; and
- 443 (e) Tippah County.

444 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
445 brought forward as follows:

446 9-5-54. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
447 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

448 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
449 brought forward as follows:

450 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be
451 comprised of the following counties:

- 452 (a) Jones County; and



453 (b) Wayne County.

454 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
455 brought forward as follows:

456 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
457 comprised of Rankin County.

458 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
459 brought forward as follows:

460 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth
461 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
462 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
463 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
464 "Place One" and "Place Two."

465 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
466 brought forward as follows:

467 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
468 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
469 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 1990. He
470 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
471 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
472 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
473 the first day of January 1931 and their terms of office shall
474 continue for four (4) years; provided, however, that the terms of
475 all circuit judges elected at the regular election in November
476 2002 shall begin on the first day of January 2003, and their terms
477 of office shall continue for six (6) years. A circuit judge shall
478 be a resident of the district in which he or she serves but shall
479 not be required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district
480 is divided into subdistricts.

481 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
482 brought forward as follows:

483 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
484 of circuit court districts severally numbered and comprised of the
485 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be



486 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
487 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
488 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. From and after
489 January 1, 1995, the dates upon which court shall be held in
490 circuit court districts consisting of a single county shall be the
491 same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for
492 business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
493 shall commence and the number of days for which such terms shall
494 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
495 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
496 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
497 A matter in court may extend past such times if the interest of
498 justice so requires.

499 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
500 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
501 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
502 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
503 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
504 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
505 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
506 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
507 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
508 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
509 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
510 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
511 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
512 counties within any such circuit court district shall remain
513 unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any
514 order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall,
515 immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of
516 the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the
517 circuit court district.



518 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
519 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
520 criteria:

- 521 (a) The population of the district;
- 522 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 523 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
- 524 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 525 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
526 court personnel of the district; and
- 527 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

528 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
529 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
530 the appropriate:

- 531 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
532 applying the above criteria;
- 533 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
534 data; and
- 535 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

536 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
537 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
538 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
539 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
540 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
541 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of the
542 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
543 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
544 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county.

545 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
546 brought forward as follows:

547 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District shall be comprised
548 of the following counties:

- 549 (a) Alcorn County;
- 550 (b) Itawamba County;



- 551 (c) Lee County;
552 (d) Monroe County;
553 (e) Pontotoc County;
554 (f) Prentiss County; and
555 (g) Tishomingo County.

556 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
557 brought forward as follows:

558 9-7-7. There shall be three (3) judges for the First Circuit
559 Court District.

560 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
561 brought forward as follows:

562 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised
563 of the following counties:

- 564 (a) Hancock County;
565 (b) Harrison County; and
566 (c) Stone County.

567 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
568 brought forward as follows:

569 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
570 Second Circuit Court District.

571 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the four
572 (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
573 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
574 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

575 **SECTION 43.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
576 brought forward as follows:

577 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised
578 of the following counties:

- 579 (a) Benton County;
580 (b) Calhoun County;
581 (c) Chickasaw County;
582 (d) Lafayette County;
583 (e) Marshall County;



584 (f) Tippah County; and

585 (g) Union County.

586 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
587 brought forward as follows:

588 9-7-14. There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the Third
589 Circuit Court District.

590 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
591 brought forward as follows:

592 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
593 composed of the following counties:

594 (a) Leflore County;

595 (b) Sunflower County; and

596 (c) Washington County.

597 (2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
598 four (4) subdistricts as follows:

599 (a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of the following
600 precincts in the following counties:

601 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,
602 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi
603 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

604 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
605 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
606 Ruleville North Precincts.

607 (b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of the following
608 precincts in the following counties:

609 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,
610 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South and Indianola 3 Northeast
611 Precincts; and

612 (ii) Washington County: Extension Building, Faith
613 Lutheran Church, American Legion, Metcalfe City Hall, Elks Club,
614 Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Light and Water Plant and
615 Greenville Industrial College Precincts.



616 (c) Subdistrict 4-3 shall consist of the following
617 precincts in the following counties:

618 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East
619 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta
620 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,
621 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

622 (ii) Sunflower County: Moorhead, Inverness,
623 Indianola 2 West and Indianola 2 East Precincts; and

624 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
625 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
626 Bourbon Store Precincts.

627 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
628 precincts in Washington County: St. James Episcopal Church,
629 Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic, Italian Club,
630 Ward's Recreation Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Avon
631 Health Center, Kapco Company, Brent Center, William Percy Library
632 and Grace Methodist Church Precincts.

633 (3) The local contributions required for the maintenance of
634 the Fourth Circuit Court District shall be paid on a pro rata
635 basis each by Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties.

636 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
637 brought forward as follows:

638 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
639 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
640 elected from each subdistrict.

641 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
642 brought forward as follows:

643 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
644 of the following counties:

- 645 (a) Attala County;
- 646 (b) Carroll County;
- 647 (c) Choctaw County;
- 648 (d) Grenada County;



- 649 (e) Montgomery County;
650 (f) Webster County; and
651 (g) Winston County.

652 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
653 brought forward as follows:

654 9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit
655 Court District.

656 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
657 brought forward as follows:

658 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be
659 comprised of the following counties:

- 660 (a) Adams County;
661 (b) Amite County;
662 (c) Franklin County; and
663 (d) Wilkinson County.

664 (2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
665 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

666 (a) Subdistrict 6-1 shall consist of Wilkinson County
667 and the following precincts in the following counties:

668 (i) Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass Fire
669 Station, Cloverdale, Carpenter No. 1, Concord, Maryland Heights,
670 Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge, Airport and Anchorage
671 Precincts; and

672 (ii) Amite County: Gloster, Ariel, Homochitto,
673 Crosby, East Centreville, Street and Berwick Precincts.

674 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County,
675 all of Amite County except Gloster, Ariel, Homochitto, Crosby,
676 East Centreville, Street and Berwick Precincts and the following
677 precincts in Adams County: Bellemont, Duncan Park, Beau Pre,
678 Kingston, Liberty Park, Palestine, Morgantown, Oakland and
679 Washington Precincts.



680 (3) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the Sixth
681 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
682 subdistrict.

683 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
684 brought forward as follows:

685 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
686 comprised of Hinds County.

687 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
688 four (4) subdistricts in Hinds County as follows:

689 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
690 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
691 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
692 10, 32, 47 and 97.

693 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
694 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
695 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
696 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

697 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
698 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
699 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
700 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64.

701 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
702 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
703 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram, Cayuga,
704 Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5,
705 Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Old
706 Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

707 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
708 brought forward as follows:

709 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
710 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
711 from each subdistrict.



712 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
713 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
714 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
715 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
716 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
717 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
718 of the court.

719 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
720 brought forward as follows:

721 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be
722 comprised of the following counties:

- 723 (a) Leake County;
- 724 (b) Neshoba County;
- 725 (c) Newton County; and
- 726 (d) Scott County.

727 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
728 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created
729 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,
730 1997, ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit
731 judges generally.

732 (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
733 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
734 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
735 "Place Two."

736 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
737 brought forward as follows:

738 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be
739 comprised of the following counties:

- 740 (a) Issaquena County;
- 741 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 742 (c) Warren County.

743 (2) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
744 two (2) subdistricts as follows:



745 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
746 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: St.
747 Aloysius, Kings, Cedar Grove, Waltersville, Auditorium, Brunswick,
748 Vicksburg Junior High School and American Legion Precincts.

749 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following
750 precincts in Warren County: Oak Ridge, Bovina, Culkin, Redwood,
751 Number 7 Firestation, Jett, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Yokena, Plumbers
752 Hall, Y.M.C.A., Moose Lodge and Tingleville Precincts.

753 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-7-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
754 brought forward as follows:

755 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
756 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
757 subdistrict.

758 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
759 brought forward as follows:

760 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
761 of the following counties:

- 762 (a) Clarke County;
- 763 (b) Kemper County;
- 764 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 765 (d) Wayne County.

766 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
767 brought forward as follows:

768 9-7-32. There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth Circuit
769 Court District.

770 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
771 brought forward as follows:

772 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be
773 comprised of the following counties:

- 774 (a) Bolivar County;
- 775 (b) Coahoma County;
- 776 (c) Quitman County; and
- 777 (d) Tunica County.



778 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
779 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

780 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of the following
781 precincts from the following counties:

782 (i) Bolivar County: Gunnison, Rosedale, Pace,
783 Benoit, Scott, East-Central Cleveland, Cleveland Courthouse,
784 Central Cleveland, West Cleveland, Longshot, North Cleveland,
785 Skene, Shaw, Boyle and Stringtown Precincts; and

786 (ii) Coahoma County: Sherard, Clarksdale 2-4,
787 Rena Lara, and Bobo Precincts.

788 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of the following
789 precincts from the following counties:

790 (i) Bolivar County: Alligator-Duncan, Shelby,
791 Mound Bayou, Winstonville, Merigold, and East Cleveland Precincts;

792 (ii) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 4-2, Mattson,
793 Clarksdale 3-3, Cagle Crossing and Roundway Precincts; and

794 (iii) Quitman County: North Marks, West Marks,
795 Sabino, West Lambert, Lambert, and Mattie Precincts.

796 (c) Subdistricts 11-3 shall consist of Tunica County
797 and the following precincts in the following counties:

798 (i) Coahoma County: Lula, Farrell, Friars Point,
799 Lyon, Clarksdale 1-4, Clarksdale 1-4A, Clarksdale 1-4B, Clarksdale
800 1-4C, Clarksdale 1-4D, Clarksdale 1-4E, Clarksdale 1-4F,
801 Clarksdale 2-4A, Clarksdale 2-4B, Clarksdale 2-4C, Clarksdale
802 3-3A, Clarksdale 3-3B, Clarksdale 3-3C, Clarksdale 3-3D,
803 Clarksdale 3-3E, Clarksdale 3-3F, Clarksdale 4-2A, Clarksdale 5-4,
804 Clarksdale 5-4A, Clarksdale 5-4B, Coahoma and Jonestown Precincts;
805 and

806 (ii) Quitman County: Crenshaw, Sledge, Birdie
807 Darling, Belen, Marks, and Crowder Precincts.

808 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
809 brought forward as follows:



810 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
811 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
812 subdistrict.

813 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
814 brought forward as follows:

815 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be
816 comprised of the following counties:

- 817 (a) Forrest County; and
- 818 (b) Perry County.

819 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
820 brought forward as follows:

821 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be
822 comprised of the following counties:

- 823 (a) Covington County;
- 824 (b) Jasper County;
- 825 (c) Simpson County; and
- 826 (d) Smith County.

827 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
828 brought forward as follows:

829 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
830 comprised of the following counties:

- 831 (a) Lincoln County;
- 832 (b) Pike County; and
- 833 (c) Walthall County.

834 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
835 Court District.

836 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
837 brought forward as follows:

838 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be
839 comprised of the following counties:

- 840 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 841 (b) Lamar County;
- 842 (c) Lawrence County;



843 (d) Marion County; and
844 (e) Pearl River County.

845 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
846 brought forward as follows:

847 9-7-42. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
848 Circuit Court District.

849 **SECTION 64.** Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
850 brought forward as follows:

851 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be
852 comprised of the following counties:

- 853 (a) Clay County;
- 854 (b) Lowndes County;
- 855 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 856 (d) Oktibbeha County.

857 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
858 brought forward as follows:

859 9-7-44. There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixteenth
860 Circuit Court District.

861 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
862 brought forward as follows:

863 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
864 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 865 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;
- 866 and
- 867 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Panola County,
868 Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

869 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
870 brought forward as follows:

871 9-7-46. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
872 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

873 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the three
874 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and one (1) judge



875 shall be elected from Subdistrict 17-1 and two (2) judges shall be
876 elected from Subdistrict 17-2.

877 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
878 brought forward as follows:

879 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
880 County.

881 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
882 brought forward as follows:

883 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be
884 comprised of the following counties:

- 885 (a) George County;
- 886 (b) Greene County; and
- 887 (c) Jackson County.

888 (2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of
889 the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to
890 George and Greene Counties, the amount of their present local
891 contribution in their present respective circuit court districts,
892 and any excess shall be paid by Jackson County.

893 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
894 brought forward as follows:

895 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
896 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. For the purposes of
897 appointment and election, the three (3) judgeships shall be
898 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
899 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

900 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
901 District may divide the court of any county within the district
902 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
903 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
904 court.

905 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
906 brought forward as follows:



907 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be
908 comprised of the following counties:

- 909 (a) Madison County; and
- 910 (b) Rankin County.

911 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
912 brought forward as follows:

913 9-7-54. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
914 Circuit Court District.

915 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
916 brought forward as follows:

917 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be
918 comprised of the following counties:

- 919 (a) Holmes County;
- 920 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 921 (c) Yazoo County.

922 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
923 brought forward as follows:

924 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be
925 comprised of the following counties:

- 926 (a) Claiborne County;
- 927 (b) Copiah County; and
- 928 (c) Jefferson County.

929 **SECTION 75.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
930 and after January 1, 2008.

