

By: Representatives Blackmon, Reynolds,
Moss, Cummings

To: Judiciary A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 827

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CONFORM TO THE 2000 CENSUS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-3,
3 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-15, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-25,
4 9-5-27, 9-5-29, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-38, 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41,
5 9-5-45, 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-53, 9-5-55, 9-5-57 AND 9-5-58,
6 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT IN ORDER TO
7 REDISTRIBUTE THE CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-5,
8 9-5-7, 9-5-13, 9-5-17, 9-5-31, 9-5-36, 9-5-37, 9-5-43, 9-5-51 AND
9 9-5-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REDISTRIBUTE CERTAIN CHANCERY
10 COURT DISTRICTS; TO REVISE CERTAIN CHANCELLORSHIPS; TO PROVIDE NEW
11 CHANCELLORS IN CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO CREATE
12 SUBDISTRICTS IN CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO AMEND SECTION
13 9-7-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE 2000 CENSUS; TO
14 BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-3, 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-17,
15 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-25, 9-7-27, 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32, 9-7-34,
16 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-43, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-51,
17 9-7-55 AND 9-7-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF
18 AMENDMENT IN ORDER TO REDISTRIBUTE THE CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO
19 AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-5, 9-7-7, 9-7-14, 9-7-15, 9-7-21, 9-7-23,
20 9-7-29, 9-7-33, 9-7-42, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-53 AND 9-7-54,
21 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REDISTRIBUTE CERTAIN CIRCUIT COURT
22 DISTRICTS; TO CREATE SUBDISTRICTS IN CERTAIN CIRCUIT COURT
23 DISTRICTS; TO REVISE CERTAIN JUDGESHIPS; TO PROVIDE NEW JUDGES IN
24 CERTAIN CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO CREATE SECTION 9-7-59 AND
25 9-7-60, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE THE TWENTY-THIRD
26 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; TO CREATE SECTIONS 9-7-61 AND 9-7-62,
27 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE THE TWENTY-FOURTH CIRCUIT
28 COURT DISTRICT FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014; TO AMEND SECTIONS
29 23-15-982 AND 23-15-983, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY
30 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

32 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 amended as follows:

34 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
35 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
36 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
37 existed on October 1, 2000. He shall hold court in any other
38 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
39 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
40 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
41 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of

42 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a
43 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be
44 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
45 divided into subdistricts.

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

48 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
49 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and
50 comprised of the counties as set forth in the sections which
51 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
52 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
53 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
54 twice a year. From and after January 1, 1995, the dates upon
55 which court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting
56 of a single county shall be the same dates state agencies and
57 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
58 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
59 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
60 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
61 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
62 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
63 such terms if the interest of justice so requires.

64 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
65 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
66 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
67 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
68 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
69 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
70 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
71 shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery court
72 district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of
73 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
74 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members

75 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
76 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
77 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain
78 unchanged for the next calendar year.

79 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
80 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
81 following criteria:

- 82 (a) The population of the district;
- 83 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 84 (c) The case load of each chancellor in the district;
- 85 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 86 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
87 court personnel of the district; and
- 88 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

89 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
90 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
91 the appropriate:

- 92 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
93 applying the above criteria;
- 94 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
95 data; and
- 96 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

97 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
98 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
99 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
100 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
101 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
102 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
103 the longest time a member of the Mississippi Bar, shall be the
104 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
105 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
106 of more than one (1) county.

107 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
108 amended as follows:

109 9-5-5. (1) The First Chancery Court District shall be
110 comprised of the following counties:

- 111 (a) Alcorn County;
- 112 (b) Itawamba County;
- 113 (c) Lee County;
- 114 (d) Monroe County;
- 115 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 116 (f) Prentiss County;
- 117 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 118 (h) Union County.

119 (2) The First Chancery Court District shall be divided into
120 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

121 (a) Subdistrict 1-1 shall consist of Itawamba, Lee,
122 Monroe, Pontotoc and Union Counties.

123 (b) Subdistrict 1-2 shall consist of Alcorn, Prentiss
124 and Tishomingo Counties.

125 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
126 amended as follows:

127 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
128 First Chancery Court District. Three (3) chancellors shall be
129 elected from Subdistrict 1-1 and one (1) chancellor shall be
130 elected from Subdistrict 1-2.

131 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
132 chancellorships in Subdistrict 1-1 shall be separate and distinct
133 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
134 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

137 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised
138 of the following counties:

- 139 (a) Jasper County;

140 (b) Newton County; and

141 (c) Scott County.

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

144 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be
145 comprised of the following counties:

146 (a) DeSoto County;

147 (b) Grenada County;

148 (c) Montgomery County;

149 (d) Panola County;

150 (e) Tate County; and

151 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

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

155 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
156 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
157 County.

158 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
159 amended as follows:

160 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
161 Third Chancery Court District.

162 (2) One (1) chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
163 from Subdistrict 3-1. * * * Two (2) chancellors * * * shall be
164 elected from Subdistrict 3-2.

165 (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
166 chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be separate and distinct
167 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
168 "Place One" and "Place Two."

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

171 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be
172 comprised of the following counties:

- 173 (a) Amite County;
174 (b) Franklin County;
175 (c) Pike County; and
176 (d) Walthall County.

177 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
178 amended as follows:

179 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be
180 comprised of Hinds County.

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

183 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
184 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
185 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
186 10, 32, 47 and 97.

187 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
188 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
189 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, * * * 27, * * *
190 29, 30 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin
191 Precincts.

192 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
193 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 31, 86,
194 58, 59, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60,
195 61, 62, 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64 and Jackson State
196 Precinct.

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

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

205 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
206 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
207 elected from each subdistrict.

208 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
209 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
210 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
211 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
212 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
213 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
214 the court.

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

217 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
218 of the following counties:

- 219 (a) Attala County;
- 220 (b) Carroll County;
- 221 (c) Choctaw County;
- 222 (d) Kemper County;
- 223 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 224 (f) Winston County.

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

227 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
228 Chancery Court District.

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

231 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be
232 comprised of the following counties:

- 233 (a) Bolivar County;
- 234 (b) Coahoma County;
- 235 (c) Leflore County;
- 236 (d) Quitman County;
- 237 (e) Tallahatchie County; and

238 (f) Tunica County.

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

241 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
242 Coahoma County;

243 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
244 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

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

247 9-5-25. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventh
248 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
249 each subdistrict.

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

252 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be
253 comprised of the following counties:

254 (a) Hancock County;

255 (b) Harrison County; and

256 (c) Stone County.

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

259 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
260 Eighth Chancery Court District.

261 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
262 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
263 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
264 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

265 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
266 powers and duties of said chancellors other than as cast upon them
267 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
268 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
269 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of

270 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
271 court.

272 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
273 amended as follows:

274 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be
275 comprised of the following counties:

- 276 (a) Humphreys County;
- 277 (b) Issaquena County;
- 278 (c) Sharkey County;
- 279 (d) Sunflower County;
- 280 (e) Warren County; and
- 281 (f) Washington County.

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

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

286 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North,
287 Indianola 3 South, Ruleville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale, Rome,
288 Sunflower Plantation, Drew and Ruleville North Precincts; and

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

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

296 (i) Sunflower County: Inverness, Indianola 1,
297 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East, Sunflower, Indianola
298 3 Northeast, Doddsville and Sunflower 4 Precincts; and

299 (ii) Washington County: St. James Episcopal
300 Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic,
301 Italian Club, Ward's Recreation Center, Avon Health Center, Arcola
302 City Hall, Kapco Co., Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist

303 Church, Mangelardi Bourbon Store and Grace Methodist Church
304 Precincts.

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

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

309 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
310 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
311 each subdistrict.

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

314 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
315 of the following counties:

- 316 (a) Forrest County;
- 317 (b) Lamar County;
- 318 (c) Marion County;
- 319 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 320 (e) Perry County.

321 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
322 amended as follows:

323 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
324 Tenth Chancery Court District.

325 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
326 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
327 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
328 Two," * * * "Place Three" and "Place Four," respectively. The
329 chancellor to fill Place One shall be a resident of Forrest,
330 Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County. The chancellor to
331 fill Place Two shall be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River
332 or Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Three shall be a
333 resident of Forrest County. The chancellor to fill Place Four
334 shall be a resident of Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or
335 Perry County. Election of the three (3) offices of chancellor

336 shall be by election to be held in every county within the Tenth
337 Chancery Court District of Mississippi.

338 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
339 amended as follows:

340 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be
341 comprised of the following counties:

- 342 (a) Holmes County;
- 343 (b) Leake County;
- 344 (c) Madison County; and
- 345 (d) Yazoo County.

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

348 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
349 Yazoo County and Canton Precinct 4, Canton Precinct 5, Smith
350 School, Magnolia Heights, Flora and Bible Church Precincts of
351 Madison County;

352 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
353 Ratliff Ferry, Madisonville, Trace Harbor, Canton Precinct 1,
354 Canton Precinct 2, Canton Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 7, Cameron
355 Street, Main Harbor, Victory Baptist Church, Bear Creek, Madison
356 1, Madison 2, Madison 3, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4,
357 Ridgeland First Methodist Church, Gluckstadt, Lorman/Cavalier,
358 Tougaloo, Cobblestone Church of God, Highland Colony Baptist
359 Church, Whisper Lake, Virililia, Liberty, New Industrial Park,
360 Madison County Baptist Family Life Center, Cameron, Couparle,
361 Camden, Sharon and Luther Branson School Precincts of Madison
362 County.

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

365 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh
366 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
367 each subdistrict.

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

370 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be
371 comprised of the following counties:

- 372 (a) Clarke County; and
- 373 (b) Lauderdale County.

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

376 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
377 Chancery Court District.

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

380 9-5-41. The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be
381 comprised of the following counties:

- 382 (a) Covington County;
- 383 (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- 384 (c) Lawrence County;
- 385 (d) Simpson County; and
- 386 (e) Smith County.

387 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
388 amended as follows:

389 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
390 comprised of the following counties:

- 391 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 392 (b) Clay County;
- 393 (c) Lowndes County;
- 394 (d) Noxubee County;
- 395 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 396 (f) Webster County.

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

- 399 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
400 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:

401 West Starkville, Adaton, North Longview, Self Creek, Double
402 Springs, Northeast Starkville, East Starkville, North Starkville,
403 Maben, South Starkville, South Longview, Craig Springs, Bradley,
404 Center Grove and Sturgis Precincts.

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

407 (i) Clay County: Vinton, East West Point, Siloam,
408 Central West Point, South West Point and Cedar Bluff Precincts;
409 and

410 (ii) Lowndes County: Caledonia, Steens A, Steens
411 B, Caldwell, Stokes Beard B, Fairview, Sale, Rural Hill B, Lee
412 High, Brandon A, Brandon B, Franklin A, Franklin B, Air Base A,
413 Air Base B, Air Base C, Air Base D, Steens C, Rural Hill A, New
414 Hope A, Mitchell, New Hope B, Union Academy A and University A
415 Precincts.

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

418 (i) Clay County: North West Point, Union Star,
419 Tibbee, Cairo, Caradine, Una, West Point, Pheba and Pine Bluff
420 Precincts;

421 (ii) Lowndes County: Co-op A, Co-op B, Trinity,
422 Coleman, Stokes Beard A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds
423 C, Coleman, Plum Grove A, Crawford A, Hunt C, Hunt B, Hunt A,
424 Union Academy B, University B, West Lowndes, Artesia, Mayhew,
425 Crawford B, Crawford C, New Hope C, Plum Grove B and Plum Grove C
426 Precincts; and

427 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Osborn, Hickory Grove,
428 Bell Schoolhouse, Central Starkville, Gillespie Street Center,
429 Sessums and Oktoc Precincts.

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

432 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
433 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
434 elected from each subdistrict.

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

437 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be
438 comprised of the following counties:

- 439 (a) Covich County; and
- 440 (b) Lincoln County.

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

443 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be
444 comprised of the following counties:

- 445 (a) George County;
- 446 (b) Greene County; and
- 447 (c) Jackson County.

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

450 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
451 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

452 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three
453 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
454 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One,"
455 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

456 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
457 amended as follows:

458 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall
459 be comprised of the following counties:

- 460 (a) Adams County;
- 461 (b) Claiborne County;
- 462 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 463 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

466 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
467 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams
468 County: * * * Palestine, Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge,
469 Airport * * * and Washington Precincts.

470 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
471 and the following precincts in Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass
472 Fire Station, Cloverdale, Bellemont, Carpenter * * *, Duncan Park,
473 Beau Pre, Kingston, Concord, Convention Center, Maryland Heights,
474 Liberty Park, Morgantown, Foster Mound and Oakland Precincts.

475 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
476 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
477 each subdistrict.

478 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
479 amended as follows:

480 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be
481 comprised of the following counties:

- 482 (a) Benton County;
- 483 (b) Calhoun County;
- 484 (c) Lafayette County;
- 485 (d) Marshall County; and
- 486 (e) Tippah County.

487 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
488 amended as follows:

489 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
490 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

491 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
492 (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
493 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
494 "Place Two."

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

497 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be
498 comprised of the following counties:

499 (a) Jones County; and

500 (b) Wayne County.

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

503 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
504 comprised of Rankin County.

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

507 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth
508 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
509 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
510 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
511 "Place One" and "Place Two."

512 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
513 amended as follows:

514 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
515 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
516 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 2000. He
517 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
518 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
519 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
520 the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of office shall
521 continue for four (4) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident
522 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be
523 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
524 divided into subdistricts.

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

527 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
528 of circuit court districts severally numbered and comprised of the
529 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be

530 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
531 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
532 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. From and after
533 January 1, 1995, the dates upon which court shall be held in
534 circuit court districts consisting of a single county shall be the
535 same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for
536 business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
537 shall commence and the number of days for which such terms shall
538 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
539 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
540 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
541 A matter in court may extend past such times if the interest of
542 justice so requires.

543 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
544 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
545 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
546 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
547 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
548 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
549 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
550 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
551 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
552 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
553 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
554 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
555 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
556 counties within any such circuit court district shall remain
557 unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any
558 order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall,
559 immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of
560 the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the
561 circuit court district.

562 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
563 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
564 criteria:

- 565 (a) The population of the district;
- 566 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 567 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
- 568 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 569 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
570 court personnel of the district; and
- 571 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

572 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
573 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
574 the appropriate:

- 575 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
576 applying the above criteria;
- 577 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
578 data; and
- 579 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

580 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
581 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
582 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
583 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
584 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
585 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of the
586 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
587 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
588 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county.

589 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
590 amended as follows:

591 9-7-5. (1) The First Circuit Court District shall be
592 comprised of the following counties:

- 593 (a) Alcorn County;
- 594 (b) Itawamba County;

- 595 (c) Lee County;
- 596 (d) Monroe County;
- 597 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 598 (f) Prentiss County; and
- 599 (g) Tishomingo County.

600 (2) The First Circuit Court District shall be divided into

601 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

602 (a) Subdistrict 1-1 shall consist of Alcorn, Prentiss

603 and Tishomingo Counties; and

604 (b) Subdistrict 1-2 shall consist of Itawamba, Lee,

605 Monroe and Pontotoc Counties.

606 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

607 amended as follows:

608 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First

609 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from

610 Subdistrict 1-1 and three (3) judges shall be elected from

611 Subdistrict 1-2.

612 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)

613 judgeships in Subdistrict 1-2 shall be separate and distinct and

614 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as

615 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

616 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

617 brought forward as follows:

618 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised

619 of the following counties:

- 620 (a) Hancock County;
- 621 (b) Harrison County; and
- 622 (c) Stone County.

623 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

624 brought forward as follows:

625 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the

626 Second Circuit Court District.

627 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the four
628 (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
629 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
630 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

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

633 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised
634 of the following counties:

- 635 (a) Benton County;
- 636 (b) Calhoun County;
- 637 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 638 (d) Lafayette County;
- 639 (e) Marshall County;
- 640 (f) Tippah County; and
- 641 (g) Union County.

642 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
643 amended as follows:

644 9-7-14. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
645 Third Circuit Court District.

646 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
647 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
648 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
649 "Place Two."

650 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
651 amended as follows:

652 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
653 composed of the following counties:

- 654 (a) Leflore County;
- 655 (b) Sunflower County; and
- 656 (c) Washington County.

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

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

661 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,
662 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi
663 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

664 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
665 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
666 Ruleville North Precincts.

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

669 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,
670 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South, Indianola 3 Northeast and
671 Sunflower 4 Precincts; and

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

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

678 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East
679 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta
680 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,
681 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

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

684 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
685 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
686 Bourbon Store Precincts.

687 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
688 precincts in Washington County: St. James Episcopal Church,
689 Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic, Italian Club,
690 Ward's Recreation Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Avon

691 Health Center, Kapco Company, Brent Center, William Percy Library
692 and Grace Methodist Church Precincts.

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

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

698 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
699 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
700 elected from each subdistrict.

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

703 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
704 of the following counties:

- 705 (a) Attala County;
- 706 (b) Carroll County;
- 707 (c) Choctaw County;
- 708 (d) Grenada County;
- 709 (e) Montgomery County;
- 710 (f) Webster County; and
- 711 (g) Winston County.

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

714 9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit
715 Court District.

716 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
717 amended as follows:

718 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be
719 comprised of the following counties:

- 720 (a) Adams County;
- 721 (b) Amite County;
- 722 (c) Franklin County; and
- 723 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

728 (i) Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass Fire
729 Station, Cloverdale, Carpenter * * *, Concord, Maryland Heights,
730 Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge and Airport * * *
731 Precincts; and

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

734 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County,
735 and the following precincts in the following counties:

736 (i) Amite County: East Gloster, Liberty, New
737 Zion, Zion Hill, Amite River, Oneil, East Fork, East Liberty,
738 Smithdale, Tangipahoa, Riceville, South Liberty, Tickfaw and Walls
739 Precincts.

740 (ii) Adams County: Bellemont, Duncan Park, Beau
741 Pre, Kingston, Convention Center, Liberty Park, Palestine,
742 Morgantown, Foster Mound, Oakland and Washington Precincts.

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

746 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
747 amended as follows:

748 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
749 comprised of Hinds County.

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

752 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
753 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
754 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
755 10, 32, 47 and 97.

756 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
757 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
758 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
759 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

760 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
761 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
762 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
763 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63, 64, 87, 88 and 90 and Jackson
764 State Precinct.

765 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
766 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, * * * and 91,
767 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram 1, Byram 2,
768 Cayuga, Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4,
769 Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St.
770 Thomas, Old Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

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

773 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
774 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
775 from each subdistrict.

776 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
777 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
778 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
779 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
780 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
781 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
782 of the court.

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

785 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be
786 comprised of the following counties:

787 (a) Leake County;

788 (b) Neshoba County;

789 (c) Newton County; and

790 (d) Scott County.

791 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
792 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created
793 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,
794 1997, Ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit
795 judges generally.

796 (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
797 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
798 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
799 "Place Two."

800 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
801 amended as follows:

802 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be
803 comprised of the following counties:

804 (a) Issaquena County;

805 (b) Sharkey County; and

806 (c) Warren County.

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

809 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
810 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: St.
811 Aloysius, Kings, Cedar Grove, 3-61 Store, Auditorium, Brunswick,
812 Vicksburg Junior High School and American Legion Precincts.

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

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

819 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
820 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
821 subdistrict.

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

824 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
825 of the following counties:

- 826 (a) Clarke County;
- 827 (b) Kemper County;
- 828 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 829 (d) Wayne County.

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

832 9-7-32. There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth Circuit
833 Court District.

834 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
835 amended as follows:

836 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be
837 comprised of the following counties:

- 838 (a) Bolivar County;
- 839 (b) Coahoma County;
- 840 (c) Quitman County; and
- 841 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

846 (i) Bolivar County: Gunnison, West Rosedale, East
847 Rosedale, Pace, Pleasant Green, Beulah, Roundlake/Deeson, Benoit,
848 Scott, Northwest Cleveland, Cleveland Courthouse, * * * West
849 Cleveland, Longshot, North Cleveland, Skene, Shaw, Boyle, Choctaw
850 and Stringtown Precincts; and

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

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

855 (i) Bolivar County: Alligator-Duncan, Shelby,
856 Mound Bayou, Winstonville, Merigold, Renova, East Central
857 Cleveland, West Central Cleveland, Cleveland Eastgate, South
858 Cleveland and East Cleveland Precincts;

859 (ii) Coahoma County: Dublin, Cagle Crossing and
860 Roundway Precincts; and

861 (iii) Quitman County: Southwest Marks, West
862 Lambert and Lambert * * * Precincts.

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

865 (i) Coahoma County: Lula, Farrell, Friars Point,
866 Lyon, Clarksdale 1-4, * * * Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4,
867 Clarksdale 4-2, Clarksdale 4-3, Clarksdale 5-4, * * * Coahoma and
868 Jonestown Precincts; and

869 (ii) Quitman County: Crenshaw, Sledge, * * *
870 Darling, Belen, Northwest Marks, Northeast Marks, East Marks-NE
871 Lambert and Crowder Precincts.

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

874 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
875 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
876 subdistrict.

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

879 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be
880 comprised of the following counties:

881 (a) Forrest County; and

882 (b) Perry County.

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

885 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be
886 comprised of the following counties:

887 (a) Covington County;

- 888 (b) Jasper County;
889 (c) Simpson County; and
890 (d) Smith County.

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

893 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
894 comprised of the following counties:

- 895 (a) Lincoln County;
896 (b) Pike County; and
897 (c) Walthall County.

898 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
899 Court District.

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

902 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be
903 comprised of the following counties:

- 904 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
905 (b) Lamar County;
906 (c) Lawrence County;
907 (d) Marion County; and
908 (e) Pearl River County.

909 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
910 amended as follows:

911 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
912 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

913 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three
914 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
915 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
916 Two" and "Place Three."

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

919 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be
920 comprised of the following counties:

- 921 (a) Clay County;
- 922 (b) Lowndes County;
- 923 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 924 (d) Oktibbeha County.

925 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
926 amended as follows:

927 9-7-44. There shall be three (3) judges for the Sixteenth
928 Circuit Court District.

929 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
930 amended as follows:

931 **[Until January 1, 2014, this section shall read as follows:]**

932 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
933 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

934 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;
935 and

936 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Panola County,
937 Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

938 **[From and after January 1, 2014, this section shall read as
939 follows:]**

940 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
941 comprised of the following counties:

- 942 (a) Panola County; * * *
- 943 (b) * * * Tallahatchie County * * *;
- 944 (c) Tate County; and
- 945 (d) Yalobusha County.

946 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
947 amended as follows:

948 **[Until January 1, 2014, this section shall read as follows:]**

949 9-7-46. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
950 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

951 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the three
952 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and two (2) judges
953 shall be elected from Subdistrict 17-1 and two (2) judges shall be

954 elected from Subdistrict 17-2. For purposes of appointment and
955 election, the two (2) judgeships in Subdistrict 17-1 shall be
956 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
957 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

958 **[From and after January 1, 2014, this section shall read as**
959 **follows:]**

960 9-7-46. * * * There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
961 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

962 * * *

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

965 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
966 County.

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

969 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be
970 comprised of the following counties:

- 971 (a) George County;
972 (b) Greene County; and
973 (c) Jackson County.

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

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

981 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
982 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. For the purposes of
983 appointment and election, the three (3) judgeships shall be
984 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
985 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

986 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
987 District may divide the court of any county within the district
988 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
989 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
990 court.

991 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
992 amended as follows:

993 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be * * *
994 Rankin County.

995 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
996 amended as follows:

997 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
998 Circuit Court District.

999 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
1000 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1001 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1002 "Place Two."

1003 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1004 brought forward as follows:

1005 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be
1006 comprised of the following counties:

- 1007 (a) Holmes County;
1008 (b) Humphreys County; and
1009 (c) Yazoo County.

1010 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1011 brought forward as follows:

1012 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be
1013 comprised of the following counties:

- 1014 (a) Claiborne County;
1015 (b) Copiah County; and
1016 (c) Jefferson County.

1017 **SECTION 75.** The following shall be codified as Section
1018 9-7-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1019 9-7-59. The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall be
1020 Madison County and shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as
1021 follows:

1022 (a) (i) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the
1023 following precincts: Ratliff Ferry, Canton Precinct 2, Canton
1024 Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 7, Smith School, Magnolia Heights,
1025 Flora, Virililia, Canton Precinct 5, Liberty, New Industrial Park,
1026 Madison County Baptist Family Life Center, Cameron, Couparle,
1027 Camden, Sharon, Canton Precinct 1, Canton Precinct 4, Luther
1028 Branson School and Bible Church Precincts.

1029 (ii) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the
1030 following partial precincts: Madisonville, Bear Creek and
1031 Gluckstadt Precincts. The Split Precinct Block List developed in
1032 conjunction with Chapter 761, Laws of 2002, that details portions
1033 of partial or split precincts that are contained within a
1034 subdistrict by census tract and block number and was utilized in
1035 developing the partial or split precincts of this subdistrict is
1036 hereby incorporated and shall be construed to be an integral part
1037 of this section.

1038 (b) (i) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of the
1039 following precincts: Trace Harbor, Main Harbor, Victory Baptist
1040 Church, Madison 1, Madison 2, Madison 3, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4,
1041 Ridgeland First Methodist Church, Lorman-Cavalier, Ridgeland 1,
1042 Tougaloo, Cobblestone Church of God, Highland Colony Baptist
1043 Church and Whisper Lake Precincts.

1044 (ii) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of that
1045 portion of the following partial precincts not included in
1046 Subdistrict 23-1: Madisonville, Bear Creek and Gluckstadt
1047 Precincts.

1048 **SECTION 76.** The following shall be codified as Section
1049 9-7-60, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1050 9-7-60. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twenty-third
1051 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
1052 subdistrict.

1053 **SECTION 77.** The following shall be codified as Section
1054 9-7-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1055 9-7-61. (1) The Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District shall
1056 be DeSoto County.

1057 (2) This section shall take effect and be in force from and
1058 after January 1, 2014.

1059 **SECTION 78.** The following shall be codified as Section
1060 9-7-62, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1061 9-7-62. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the
1062 Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District.

1063 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
1064 (2) judgeships shall be separate and district and denominated for
1065 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1066 "Place Two."

1067 (3) This section shall take effect and be in force from and
1068 after January 1, 2014.

1069 **SECTION 79.** Section 23-15-982, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1070 amended as follows:

1071 23-15-982. (1) Majority of vote equals any excess of the
1072 total vote for all candidates divided by the number of judgeships
1073 to be filled divided by two (2).

1074 If some or all candidates in a multijudge election do not
1075 receive a majority of the vote, then candidates equal in number to
1076 twice the number of remaining positions to be filled and having
1077 the highest votes shall run in a runoff election. In such event,
1078 if there is not a sufficient number of remaining candidates equal
1079 to twice the number of remaining positions to be filled, then all
1080 remaining candidates shall run in the runoff election.

1081 (2) Any tie votes which require resolution to determine who
1082 shall enter a runoff election shall be determined by the

1083 commissioners of election in the manner prescribed by Sections
1084 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1085 Candidates equal to the remaining number of positions to be
1086 filled who have the highest votes in the runoff election are
1087 elected.

1088 Any tie votes which must be determined in order to decide who
1089 is elected as a result of a runoff election shall be determined by
1090 the State Election Commission in the manner prescribed by Sections
1091 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1092 (3) The provisions of this section shall apply only to
1093 districts and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except
1094 for the First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth
1095 Chancery Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third,
1096 Eighth, Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court
1097 Districts.

1098 **SECTION 80.** Section 23-15-983, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1099 amended as follows:

1100 23-15-983. At the general election, the candidates equal to
1101 the number of positions to be filled and having the highest votes
1102 shall be elected.

1103 Any tie votes in the general election which must be resolved
1104 in order to determine who is elected shall be resolved in the
1105 manner prescribed by Sections 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1106 The provisions of this section shall apply only to districts
1107 and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except for the
1108 First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth Chancery
1109 Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third, Eighth,
1110 Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court
1111 Districts.

1112 **SECTION 81.** No new judgeships or chancellorships created by
1113 this act shall be filled until the judicial elections are
1114 conducted in 2006. Any district attorneys for circuit court
1115 districts created by this act whose term of office begins on

1116 January 1, 2007, shall be elected at a special election to be held
1117 at the same time as the judicial elections in 2006. Thereafter,
1118 such district attorneys shall be elected at the time and in the
1119 manner provided by law for electing district attorneys.

1120 **SECTION 82.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
1121 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
1122 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
1123 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
1124 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
1125 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
1126 extended.

1127 **SECTION 83.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1128 and after January 1, 2006, provided that it is effectuated under
1129 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
1130 extended.