

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 680

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; TO AMEND SECTION 9-3-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 31 REDISTRIBUTE THE MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT; AND FOR RELATED
 32 PURPOSES.

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

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

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

43 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
44 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a
45 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be
46 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
47 divided into subdistricts.

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

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

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

76 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
77 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
78 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
79 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain
80 unchanged for the next calendar year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

111 9-5-5. (1) The First Chancery Court District shall be
112 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

139 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised
140 of the following counties:

- 141 (a) Jasper County;

142 (b) Newton County; and

143 (c) Scott County.

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

146 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be
147 comprised of the following counties:

148 (a) DeSoto County;

149 (b) Grenada County;

150 (c) Montgomery County;

151 (d) Panola County;

152 (e) Tate County; and

153 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

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

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

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

162 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
163 Third Chancery Court District.

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

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

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

173 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be
174 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

181 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be
182 comprised of Hinds County.

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

185 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
186 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
187 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
188 10, 32, 47 and 97.

189 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
190 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
191 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, * * * 27, * * *
192 29, 30 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin
193 Precincts.

194 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
195 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 31, 86,
196 58, 59, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60,
197 61, 62, 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64 and Jackson State
198 Precinct.

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

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

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

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

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

219 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
220 of the following counties:

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

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

229 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
230 Chancery Court District.

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

233 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be
234 comprised of the following counties:

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

240 (f) Tunica County.

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

243 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
244 Coahoma County;

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

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

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

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

254 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be
255 comprised of the following counties:

256 (a) Hancock County;

257 (b) Harrison County; and

258 (c) Stone County.

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

261 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
262 Eighth Chancery Court District.

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

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

272 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
273 court.

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

276 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be
277 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

298 (i) Sunflower County: Inverness, Indianola 1,
299 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East, Sunflower, Indianola
300 3 Northeast, Doddsville and Sunflower 4 Precincts; and

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

305 Church, Mangelardi Bourbon Store and Grace Methodist Church
306 Precincts.

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

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

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

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

316 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
317 of the following counties:

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

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

325 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
326 Tenth Chancery Court District.

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

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

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

342 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be
343 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

372 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be
373 comprised of the following counties:

- 374 (a) Clarke County; and
- 375 (b) Lauderdale County.

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

378 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
379 Chancery Court District.

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

382 9-5-41. The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be
383 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

391 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
392 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

439 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be
440 comprised of the following counties:

- 441 (a) Copeiah County; and
- 442 (b) Lincoln County.

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

445 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be
446 comprised of the following counties:

- 447 (a) George County;
- 448 (b) Greene County; and
- 449 (c) Jackson County.

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

452 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
453 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

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

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

460 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall
461 be comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

482 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be
483 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

491 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
492 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

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

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

499 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be
500 comprised of the following counties:

501 (a) Jones County; and

502 (b) Wayne County.

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

505 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
506 comprised of Rankin County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

593 9-7-5. (1) The First Circuit Court District shall be
594 comprised of the following counties:

- 595 (a) Alcorn County;
- 596 (b) Itawamba County;

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

602 (2) The First Circuit Court District shall be divided into
603 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

604 (a) Subdistrict 1-1 shall consist of Alcorn, Prentiss
605 and Tishomingo Counties; and

606 (b) Subdistrict 1-2 shall consist of Itawamba, Lee,
607 Monroe and Pontotoc Counties.

608 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
609 amended as follows:

610 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
611 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from
612 Subdistrict 1-1 and three (3) judges shall be elected from
613 Subdistrict 1-2.

614 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
615 judgeships in Subdistrict 1-2 shall be separate and distinct and
616 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
617 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

620 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised
621 of the following counties:

- 622 (a) Hancock County;
623 (b) Harrison County; and
624 (c) Stone County.

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

627 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
628 Second Circuit Court District.

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

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

635 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised
636 of the following counties:

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

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

646 9-7-14. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
647 Third Circuit Court District.

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

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

654 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
655 composed of the following counties:

- 656 (a) Leflore County;
- 657 (b) Sunflower County; and
- 658 (c) Washington County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

693 Health Center, Kapco Company, Brent Center, William Percy Library
694 and Grace Methodist Church Precincts.

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

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

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

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

705 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
706 of the following counties:

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

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

716 9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit
717 Court District.

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

720 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be
721 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

750 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
751 comprised of Hinds County.

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

754 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
755 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
756 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
757 10, 32, 47 and 97.

758 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
759 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
760 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
761 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

762 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
763 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
764 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
765 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63, 64, 87, 88 and 90 and Jackson
766 State Precinct.

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

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

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

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

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

787 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be
788 comprised of the following counties:

789 (a) Leake County;

790 (b) Neshoba County;

791 (c) Newton County; and

792 (d) Scott County.

793 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
794 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created
795 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,
796 1997, Ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit
797 judges generally.

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

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

804 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be
805 comprised of the following counties:

806 (a) Issaquena County;

807 (b) Sharkey County; and

808 (c) Warren County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

826 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
827 of the following counties:

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

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

834 9-7-32. There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth Circuit
835 Court District.

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

838 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be
839 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

861 (ii) Coahoma County: Dublin, Cagle Crossing and
862 Roundway Precincts; and

863 (iii) Quitman County: Southwest Marks, West
864 Lambert and Lambert * * * Precincts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

881 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be
882 comprised of the following counties:

883 (a) Forrest County; and

884 (b) Perry County.

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

887 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be
888 comprised of the following counties:

889 (a) Covington County;

- 890 (b) Jasper County;
891 (c) Simpson County; and
892 (d) Smith County.

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

895 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
896 comprised of the following counties:

- 897 (a) Lincoln County;
898 (b) Pike County; and
899 (c) Walthall County.

900 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
901 Court District.

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

904 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be
905 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

913 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
914 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

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

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

921 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be
922 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

929 9-7-44. There shall be three (3) judges for the Sixteenth
930 Circuit Court District.

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

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

934 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
935 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

936 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;
937 and

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

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

942 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
943 comprised of the following counties:

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

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

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

951 9-7-46. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
952 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

953 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the three

954 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and two (2) judges

955 shall be elected from Subdistrict 17-1 and two (2) judges shall be

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

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

962 9-7-46. * * * There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
963 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

964 * * *

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

967 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
968 County.

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

971 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be
972 comprised of the following counties:

- 973 (a) George County;
974 (b) Greene County; and
975 (c) Jackson County.

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

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

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

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

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

995 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be * * *
996 Rankin County.

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

999 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
1000 Circuit Court District.

1001 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
1002 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1003 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1004 "Place Two."

1005 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1006 brought forward as follows:

1007 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be
1008 comprised of the following counties:

- 1009 (a) Holmes County;
- 1010 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 1011 (c) Yazoo County.

1012 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1013 brought forward as follows:

1014 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be
1015 comprised of the following counties:

- 1016 (a) Claiborne County;
- 1017 (b) Copiah County; and
- 1018 (c) Jefferson County.

1019 **SECTION 75.** The following shall be codified as Section
1020 9-7-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1021 9-7-59. The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall be
1022 Madison County and shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as
1023 follows:

1024 (a) (i) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the
1025 following precincts: Ratliff Ferry, Canton Precinct 2, Canton
1026 Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 7, Smith School, Magnolia Heights,
1027 Flora, Virililia, Canton Precinct 5, Liberty, New Industrial Park,
1028 Madison County Baptist Family Life Center, Cameron, Couparle,
1029 Camden, Sharon, Canton Precinct 1, Canton Precinct 4, Luther
1030 Branson School and Bible Church Precincts.

1031 (ii) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the
1032 following partial precincts: Madisonville, Bear Creek and
1033 Gluckstadt Precincts. The Split Precinct Block List developed in
1034 conjunction with Chapter 761, Laws of 2002, that details portions
1035 of partial or split precincts that are contained within a
1036 subdistrict by census tract and block number and was utilized in
1037 developing the partial or split precincts of this subdistrict is
1038 hereby incorporated and shall be construed to be an integral part
1039 of this section.

1040 (b) (i) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of the
1041 following precincts: Trace Harbor, Main Harbor, Victory Baptist
1042 Church, Madison 1, Madison 2, Madison 3, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4,
1043 Ridgeland First Methodist Church, Lorman-Cavalier, Ridgeland 1,
1044 Tougaloo, Cobblestone Church of God, Highland Colony Baptist
1045 Church and Whisper Lake Precincts.

1046 (ii) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of that
1047 portion of the following partial precincts not included in
1048 Subdistrict 23-1: Madisonville, Bear Creek and Gluckstadt
1049 Precincts.

1050 **SECTION 76.** The following shall be codified as Section
1051 9-7-60, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1052 9-7-60. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twenty-third
1053 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
1054 subdistrict.

1055 **SECTION 77.** The following shall be codified as Section
1056 9-7-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1057 9-7-61. (1) The Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District shall
1058 be DeSoto County.

1059 (2) This section shall take effect and be in force from and
1060 after January 1, 2014.

1061 **SECTION 78.** The following shall be codified as Section
1062 9-7-62, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1063 9-7-62. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the
1064 Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District.

1065 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
1066 (2) judgeships shall be separate and district and denominated for
1067 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1068 "Place Two."

1069 (3) This section shall take effect and be in force from and
1070 after January 1, 2014.

1071 **SECTION 79.** Section 23-15-982, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1072 amended as follows:

1073 23-15-982. (1) Majority of vote equals any excess of the
1074 total vote for all candidates divided by the number of judgeships
1075 to be filled divided by two (2).

1076 If some or all candidates in a multijudge election do not
1077 receive a majority of the vote, then candidates equal in number to
1078 twice the number of remaining positions to be filled and having
1079 the highest votes shall run in a runoff election. In such event,
1080 if there is not a sufficient number of remaining candidates equal
1081 to twice the number of remaining positions to be filled, then all
1082 remaining candidates shall run in the runoff election.

1083 (2) Any tie votes which require resolution to determine who
1084 shall enter a runoff election shall be determined by the

1085 commissioners of election in the manner prescribed by Sections
1086 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1087 Candidates equal to the remaining number of positions to be
1088 filled who have the highest votes in the runoff election are
1089 elected.

1090 Any tie votes which must be determined in order to decide who
1091 is elected as a result of a runoff election shall be determined by
1092 the State Election Commission in the manner prescribed by Sections
1093 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1094 (3) The provisions of this section shall apply only to
1095 districts and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except
1096 for the First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth
1097 Chancery Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third,
1098 Eighth, Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court
1099 Districts.

1100 **SECTION 80.** Section 23-15-983, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1101 amended as follows:

1102 23-15-983. At the general election, the candidates equal to
1103 the number of positions to be filled and having the highest votes
1104 shall be elected.

1105 Any tie votes in the general election which must be resolved
1106 in order to determine who is elected shall be resolved in the
1107 manner prescribed by Sections 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1108 The provisions of this section shall apply only to districts
1109 and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except for the
1110 First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth Chancery
1111 Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third, Eighth,
1112 Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court
1113 Districts.

1114 **SECTION 81.** No new judgeships or chancellorships created by
1115 this act shall be filled until the judicial elections are
1116 conducted in 2006. Any district attorneys for circuit court
1117 districts created by this act whose term of office begins on

1118 January 1, 2007, shall be elected at a special election to be held
1119 at the same time as the judicial elections in 2006. Thereafter,
1120 such district attorneys shall be elected at the time and in the
1121 manner provided by law for electing district attorneys.

1122 **SECTION 82.** Section 9-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1123 amended as follows:

1124 9-3-1. The state shall be divided into nine (9) Supreme
1125 Court districts, as follows, to wit:

1126 The counties of * * * Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison,
1127 Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Rankin and Scott * * * shall constitute
1128 the First District.

1129 The counties of * * * Clarke, Covington, Forrest * * *
1130 George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper * * *, Jones,
1131 Lamar, * * * Pearl River, Perry, * * * Smith, Stone and
1132 Wayne * * * shall constitute the Second District.

1133 The counties of * * * Attala, * * * Calhoun, Carroll,
1134 Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, * * * Grenada, * * * Lowndes, * * *
1135 Montgomery, Oktibbeha, * * * Webster, Winston and Yalobusha, shall
1136 constitute the Third District.

1137 The counties of Adams, Amite, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson
1138 Davis, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pike, Simpson, Walthall and
1139 Wilkinson shall constitute the Fourth District.

1140 The counties of Claiborne, Hinds, Jefferson and Warren shall
1141 constitute the Fifth District.

1142 The counties of Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore,
1143 Sharkey, Washington and Yazoo shall constitute the Sixth District.

1144 The counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, Panola, Quitman, Sunflower,
1145 Tallahatchie and Tunica shall constitute the Seventh District.

1146 The counties of Benton, DeSoto, Lafayette, Marshall and Tate
1147 shall constitute the Eighth District.

1148 The counties of Alcorn, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc,
1149 Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo and Union shall constitute the Ninth
1150 District.

1151 **SECTION 83.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
1152 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
1153 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
1154 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
1155 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
1156 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
1157 extended.

1158 **SECTION 84.** Sections 1 through 81 of this act shall take
1159 effect and be in force from and after January 1, 2006, provided
1160 that it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of
1161 1965, as amended and extended. Section 82 of this act shall take
1162 effect upon the ratification of House Concurrent Resolution No.
1163 ____, 2005 Regular Session, by the electorate, provided that it is
1164 effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as
1165 amended and extended.