

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 681

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

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

33 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 34 amended as follows:

35 9-3-1. The state shall be divided into three (3) Supreme  
 36 Court districts, as follows, to wit:

37 The counties of Bolivar, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Hinds,  
 38 Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Kemper, Lauderdale,  
 39 Leake, Leflore, Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Quitman, Scott,  
 40 Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington and  
 41 Yazoo shall constitute the First District.

42           The counties of Adams, Amite, Clarke, Covington, Forrest,  
43 Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper,  
44 Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pearl  
45 River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Wayne  
46 and Wilkinson shall constitute the Second District.

47           The counties of Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Calhoun, Carroll,  
48 Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, \* \* \* DeSoto, Grenada, Itawamba,  
49 Lafayette, Lee, \* \* \* Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery,  
50 Oktibbeha, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, \* \* \* Tate, Tippah,  
51 Tishomingo, \* \* \* Union, Webster, Winston and Yalobusha shall  
52 constitute the Third District.

53           **SECTION 2.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
54 amended as follows:

55           9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of  
56 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the  
57 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they  
58 existed on October 1, 2000. He shall hold court in any other  
59 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their  
60 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of  
61 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930  
62 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of  
63 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a  
64 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be  
65 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is  
66 divided into subdistricts.

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

69           9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate  
70 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and  
71 comprised of the counties as set forth in the sections which  
72 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of  
73 \_\_\_\_" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial  
74 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least

75 twice a year. From and after January 1, 1995, the dates upon  
76 which court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting  
77 of a single county shall be the same dates state agencies and  
78 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal  
79 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the  
80 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court  
81 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by  
82 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of  
83 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past  
84 such terms if the interest of justice so requires.

85 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation  
86 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court  
87 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered  
88 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately  
89 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to  
90 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of  
91 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms  
92 shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery court  
93 district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of  
94 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the  
95 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members  
96 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely  
97 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the  
98 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain  
99 unchanged for the next calendar year.

100 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court  
101 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the  
102 following criteria:

- 103 (a) The population of the district;  
104 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;  
105 (c) The case load of each chancellor in the district;  
106 (d) The geographic area of the district;

107 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the  
108 court personnel of the district; and

109 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

110 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi  
111 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine  
112 the appropriate:

113 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for  
114 applying the above criteria;

115 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified  
116 data; and

117 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

118 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of  
119 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the  
120 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the  
121 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a  
122 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served  
123 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for  
124 the longest time a member of the Mississippi Bar, shall be the  
125 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to  
126 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting  
127 of more than one (1) county.

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

130 9-5-5. (1) The First Chancery Court District shall be  
131 comprised of the following counties:

132 (a) Alcorn County;

133 (b) Itawamba County;

134 (c) Lee County;

135 (d) Monroe County;

136 (e) Pontotoc County;

137 (f) Prentiss County;

138 (g) Tishomingo County; and

139 (h) Union County.

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

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

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

146       **SECTION 5.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
147 amended as follows:

148       9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the  
149 First Chancery Court District. Three (3) chancellors shall be  
150 elected from Subdistrict 1-1 and one (1) chancellor shall be  
151 elected from Subdistrict 1-2.

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

156       **SECTION 6.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
157 brought forward as follows:

158       9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised  
159 of the following counties:

- 160           (a) Jasper County;
- 161           (b) Newton County; and
- 162           (c) Scott County.

163       **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
164 brought forward as follows:

165       9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be  
166 comprised of the following counties:

- 167           (a) DeSoto County;
- 168           (b) Grenada County;
- 169           (c) Montgomery County;
- 170           (d) Panola County;
- 171           (e) Tate County; and
- 172           (f) Yalobusha County.

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

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

176           (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,  
177 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha  
178 County.

179           **SECTION 8.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
180 amended as follows:

181           9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the  
182 Third Chancery Court District.

183           (2) One (1) chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected  
184 from Subdistrict 3-1. \* \* \* Two (2) chancellors \* \* \* shall be  
185 elected from Subdistrict 3-2.

186           (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)  
187 chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be separate and distinct  
188 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as  
189 "Place One" and "Place Two."

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

192           9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be  
193 comprised of the following counties:

194           (a) Amite County;

195           (b) Franklin County;

196           (c) Pike County; and

197           (d) Walthall County.

198           **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
199 amended as follows:

200           9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be  
201 comprised of Hinds County.

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

204           (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following  
205 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,

206 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,  
207 10, 32, 47 and 97.

208 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following  
209 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,  
210 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, \* \* \* 27, \* \* \*  
211 29, 30 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin  
212 Precincts.

213 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following  
214 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 31, 86,  
215 58, 59, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60,  
216 61, 62, 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64 and Jackson State  
217 Precinct.

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

224 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
225 brought forward as follows:

226 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the  
227 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be  
228 elected from each subdistrict.

229 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the  
230 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon  
231 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the  
232 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the  
233 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a  
234 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of  
235 the court.

236 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
237 brought forward as follows:

238           9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised  
239 of the following counties:

- 240           (a) Attala County;
- 241           (b) Carroll County;
- 242           (c) Choctaw County;
- 243           (d) Kemper County;
- 244           (e) Neshoba County; and
- 245           (f) Winston County.

246           **SECTION 13.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
247 brought forward as follows:

248           9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth  
249 Chancery Court District.

250           **SECTION 14.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
251 brought forward as follows:

252           9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be  
253 comprised of the following counties:

- 254           (a) Bolivar County;
- 255           (b) Coahoma County;
- 256           (c) Leflore County;
- 257           (d) Quitman County;
- 258           (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 259           (f) Tunica County.

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

- 262           (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and  
263 Coahoma County;
- 264           (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,  
265 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

266           **SECTION 15.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
267 brought forward as follows:

268           9-5-25. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventh  
269 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from  
270 each subdistrict.



271           **SECTION 16.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
272 brought forward as follows:

273           9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be  
274 comprised of the following counties:

- 275           (a) Hancock County;
- 276           (b) Harrison County; and
- 277           (c) Stone County.

278           **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
279 brought forward as follows:

280           9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the  
281 Eighth Chancery Court District.

282           (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)  
283 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
284 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place  
285 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

286           (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the  
287 powers and duties of said chancellors other than as cast upon them  
288 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the  
289 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior  
290 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of  
291 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the  
292 court.

293           **SECTION 18.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
294 amended as follows:

295           9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be  
296 comprised of the following counties:

- 297           (a) Humphreys County;
- 298           (b) Issaquena County;
- 299           (c) Sharkey County;
- 300           (d) Sunflower County;
- 301           (e) Warren County; and
- 302           (f) Washington County.

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

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

307                   (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North,  
308 Indianola 3 South, Ruleville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale, Rome,  
309 Sunflower Plantation, Drew and Ruleville North Precincts; and

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

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

317                   (i) Sunflower County: Inverness, Indianola 1,  
318 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East, Sunflower, Indianola  
319 3 Northeast, Doddsville and Sunflower 4 Precincts; and

320                   (ii) Washington County: St. James Episcopal  
321 Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic,  
322 Italian Club, Ward's Recreation Center, Avon Health Center, Arcola  
323 City Hall, Kapco Co., Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist  
324 Church, Mangelardi Bourbon Store and Grace Methodist Church  
325 Precincts.

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

328           **SECTION 19.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
329 brought forward as follows:

330           9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth  
331 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from  
332 each subdistrict.

333           **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
334 brought forward as follows:

335           9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised  
336 of the following counties:

- 337           (a) Forrest County;
- 338           (b) Lamar County;
- 339           (c) Marion County;
- 340           (d) Pearl River County; and
- 341           (e) Perry County.

342           **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
343 amended as follows:

344           9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the  
345 Tenth Chancery Court District.

346           (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)  
347 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
348 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place  
349 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four," respectively. The chancellor  
350 to fill Place One shall be a resident of Forrest, Lamar, Marion,  
351 Pearl River or Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Two  
352 shall be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County.  
353 The chancellor to fill Place Three shall be a resident of Forrest  
354 County. The chancellor to fill Place Four shall be a resident of  
355 Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County. Election of  
356 the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be by election to be held  
357 in every county within the Tenth Chancery Court District of  
358 Mississippi.

359           **SECTION 22.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
360 amended as follows:

361           9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be  
362 comprised of the following counties:

- 363           (a) Holmes County;
- 364           (b) Leake County;
- 365           (c) Madison County; and
- 366           (d) Yazoo County.

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

369 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,  
370 Yazoo County and Canton Precinct 4, Canton Precinct 5, Smith  
371 School, Magnolia Heights, Flora and Bible Church Precincts of  
372 Madison County;

373 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and  
374 Ratliff Ferry, Madisonville, Trace Harbor, Canton Precinct 1,  
375 Canton Precinct 2, Canton Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 7, Cameron  
376 Street, Main Harbor, Victory Baptist Church, Bear Creek, Madison  
377 1, Madison 2, Madison 3, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4,  
378 Ridgeland First Methodist Church, Gluckstadt, Lorman/Cavalier,  
379 Tougaloo, Cobblestone Church of God, Highland Colony Baptist  
380 Church, Whisper Lake, Virililia, Liberty, New Industrial Park,  
381 Madison County Baptist Family Life Center, Cameron, Couparle,  
382 Camden, Sharon and Luther Branson School Precincts of Madison  
383 County.

384 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
385 brought forward as follows:

386 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh  
387 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from  
388 each subdistrict.

389 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
390 brought forward as follows:

391 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be  
392 comprised of the following counties:

393 (a) Clarke County; and

394 (b) Lauderdale County.

395 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
396 brought forward as follows:

397 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth  
398 Chancery Court District.

399           **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
400 brought forward as follows:

401           9-5-41. The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
402 comprised of the following counties:

- 403           (a) Covington County;
- 404           (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- 405           (c) Lawrence County;
- 406           (d) Simpson County; and
- 407           (e) Smith County.

408           **SECTION 27.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
409 amended as follows:

410           9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
411 comprised of the following counties:

- 412           (a) Chickasaw County;
- 413           (b) Clay County;
- 414           (c) Lowndes County;
- 415           (d) Noxubee County;
- 416           (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 417           (f) Webster County.

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

420           (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,  
421 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:  
422 West Starkville, Adaton, North Longview, Self Creek, Double  
423 Springs, Northeast Starkville, East Starkville, North Starkville,  
424 Maben, South Starkville, South Longview, Craig Springs, Bradley,  
425 Center Grove and Sturgis Precincts.

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

428           (i) Clay County: Vinton, East West Point, Siloam,  
429 Central West Point, South West Point and Cedar Bluff Precincts;

430 and

431 (ii) Lowndes County: Caledonia, Steens A, Steens  
432 B, Caldwell, Stokes Beard B, Fairview, Sale, Rural Hill B, Lee  
433 High, Brandon A, Brandon B, Franklin A, Franklin B, Air Base A,  
434 Air Base B, Air Base C, Air Base D, Steens C, Rural Hill A, New  
435 Hope A, Mitchell, New Hope B, Union Academy A and University A  
436 Precincts.

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

439 (i) Clay County: North West Point, Union Star,  
440 Tibbee, Cairo, Caradine, Una, West Point, Pheba and Pine Bluff  
441 Precincts;

442 (ii) Lowndes County: Co-op A, Co-op B, Trinity,  
443 Coleman, Stokes Beard A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds  
444 C, Coleman, Plum Grove A, Crawford A, Hunt C, Hunt B, Hunt A,  
445 Union Academy B, University B, West Lowndes, Artesia, Mayhew,  
446 Crawford B, Crawford C, New Hope C, Plum Grove B and Plum Grove C  
447 Precincts; and

448 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Osborn, Hickory Grove,  
449 Bell Schoolhouse, Central Starkville, Gillespie Street Center,  
450 Sessums and Oktoc Precincts.

451 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
452 brought forward as follows:

453 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the  
454 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be  
455 elected from each subdistrict.

456 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
457 brought forward as follows:

458 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
459 comprised of the following counties:

460 (a) Copiah County; and

461 (b) Lincoln County.

462 **SECTION 30.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
463 brought forward as follows:

464 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
465 comprised of the following counties:

- 466 (a) George County;
- 467 (b) Greene County; and
- 468 (c) Jackson County.

469 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
470 brought forward as follows:

471 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the  
472 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

473 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three  
474 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated  
475 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One,"  
476 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

477 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
478 amended as follows:

479 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall  
480 be comprised of the following counties:

- 481 (a) Adams County;
- 482 (b) Claiborne County;
- 483 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 484 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

487 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,  
488 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams  
489 County: \* \* \* Palestine, Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge,  
490 Airport \* \* \* and Washington Precincts.

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

496 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth  
497 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from  
498 each subdistrict.

499 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
500 brought forward as follows:

501 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
502 comprised of the following counties:

- 503 (a) Benton County;
- 504 (b) Calhoun County;
- 505 (c) Lafayette County;
- 506 (d) Marshall County; and
- 507 (e) Tippah County.

508 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
509 amended as follows:

510 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the  
511 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

512 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two  
513 (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated  
514 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
515 "Place Two."

516 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
517 brought forward as follows:

518 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be  
519 comprised of the following counties:

- 520 (a) Jones County; and
- 521 (b) Wayne County.

522 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
523 brought forward as follows:

524 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be  
525 comprised of Rankin County.

526 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
527 brought forward as follows:



528 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth  
529 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election  
530 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and  
531 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as  
532 "Place One" and "Place Two."

533 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
534 amended as follows:

535 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each  
536 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts  
537 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 2000. He  
538 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge  
539 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.  
540 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on  
541 the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of office shall  
542 continue for four (4) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident  
543 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be  
544 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is  
545 divided into subdistricts.

546 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
547 brought forward as follows:

548 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number  
549 of circuit court districts severally numbered and comprised of the  
550 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be  
551 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of \_\_\_\_" shall be held in  
552 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having  
553 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. From and after  
554 January 1, 1995, the dates upon which court shall be held in  
555 circuit court districts consisting of a single county shall be the  
556 same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for  
557 business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms  
558 shall commence and the number of days for which such terms shall  
559 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one  
560 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in

561 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.  
562 A matter in court may extend past such times if the interest of  
563 justice so requires.

564 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation  
565 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court  
566 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered  
567 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately  
568 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to  
569 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of  
570 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms  
571 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court  
572 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of  
573 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the  
574 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members  
575 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely  
576 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the  
577 counties within any such circuit court district shall remain  
578 unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any  
579 order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall,  
580 immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of  
581 the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the  
582 circuit court district.

583 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district  
584 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following  
585 criteria:

- 586 (a) The population of the district;  
587 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;  
588 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;  
589 (d) The geographic area of the district;  
590 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the  
591 court personnel of the district; and  
592 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

593           (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi  
594 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine  
595 the appropriate:

596                 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for  
597 applying the above criteria;

598                 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified  
599 data; and

600                 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

601           (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit  
602 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,  
603 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who  
604 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court  
605 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,  
606 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of the  
607 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge  
608 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms  
609 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county.

610           **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
611 amended as follows:

612           9-7-5. (1) The First Circuit Court District shall be  
613 comprised of the following counties:

614                 (a) Alcorn County;

615                 (b) Itawamba County;

616                 (c) Lee County;

617                 (d) Monroe County;

618                 (e) Pontotoc County;

619                 (f) Prentiss County; and

620                 (g) Tishomingo County.

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

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

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

627           **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
628 amended as follows:

629           9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First  
630 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from  
631 Subdistrict 1-1 and three (3) judges shall be elected from  
632 Subdistrict 1-2.

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

637           **SECTION 42.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
638 brought forward as follows:

639           9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised  
640 of the following counties:

- 641           (a) Hancock County;
- 642           (b) Harrison County; and
- 643           (c) Stone County.

644           **SECTION 43.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
645 brought forward as follows:

646           9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the  
647 Second Circuit Court District.

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

652           **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
653 brought forward as follows:

654           9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised  
655 of the following counties:

- 656           (a) Benton County;
- 657           (b) Calhoun County;

- 658 (c) Chickasaw County;  
659 (d) Lafayette County;  
660 (e) Marshall County;  
661 (f) Tippah County; and  
662 (g) Union County.

663 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
664 amended as follows:

665 9-7-14. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the  
666 Third Circuit Court District.

667 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)  
668 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
669 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
670 "Place Two."

671 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
672 amended as follows:

673 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be  
674 composed of the following counties:

- 675 (a) Leflore County;  
676 (b) Sunflower County; and  
677 (c) Washington County.

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

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

682 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,  
683 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi  
684 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

685 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower  
686 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and  
687 Ruleville North Precincts.

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

690 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,  
691 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South, Indianola 3 Northeast and  
692 Sunflower 4 Precincts; and

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

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

699 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East  
700 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta  
701 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,  
702 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

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

705 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,  
706 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi  
707 Bourbon Store Precincts.

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

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

717 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
718 brought forward as follows:

719 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the  
720 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be  
721 elected from each subdistrict.

722           **SECTION 48.** Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
723 brought forward as follows:

724           9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised  
725 of the following counties:

- 726           (a) Attala County;
- 727           (b) Carroll County;
- 728           (c) Choctaw County;
- 729           (d) Grenada County;
- 730           (e) Montgomery County;
- 731           (f) Webster County; and
- 732           (g) Winston County.

733           **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
734 brought forward as follows:

735           9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit  
736 Court District.

737           **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
738 amended as follows:

739           9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be  
740 comprised of the following counties:

- 741           (a) Adams County;
- 742           (b) Amite County;
- 743           (c) Franklin County; and
- 744           (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

749                   (i) Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass Fire  
750 Station, Cloverdale, Carpenter \* \* \*, Concord, Maryland Heights,  
751 Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge and Airport \* \* \*  
752 Precincts; and

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

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

757 (i) Amite County: East Gloster, Liberty, New  
758 Zion, Zion Hill, Amite River, Oneil, East Fork, East Liberty,  
759 Smithdale, Tangipahoa, Riceville, South Liberty, Tickfaw and Walls  
760 Precincts.

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

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

767 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
768 amended as follows:

769 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be  
770 comprised of Hinds County.

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

773 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following  
774 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,  
775 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,  
776 10, 32, 47 and 97.

777 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following  
778 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,  
779 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30  
780 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

781 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following  
782 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,  
783 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,  
784 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63, 64, 87, 88 and 90 and Jackson  
785 State Precinct.

786 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following  
787 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, \* \* \* and 91,



788 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram 1, Byram 2,  
789 Cayuga, Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4,  
790 Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St.  
791 Thomas, Old Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

792         **SECTION 52.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
793 brought forward as follows:

794             9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the  
795 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected  
796 from each subdistrict.

797             (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the  
798 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them  
799 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First  
800 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior  
801 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as  
802 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes  
803 of the court.

804         **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
805 brought forward as follows:

806             9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be  
807 comprised of the following counties:

- 808                 (a) Leake County;
- 809                 (b) Neshoba County;
- 810                 (c) Newton County; and
- 811                 (d) Scott County.

812             (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit  
813 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created  
814 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,  
815 1997, Ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit  
816 judges generally.

817             (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)  
818 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
819 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
820 "Place Two."

821           **SECTION 54.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
822 amended as follows:

823           9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be  
824 comprised of the following counties:

- 825                   (a) Issaquena County;
- 826                   (b) Sharkey County; and
- 827                   (c) Warren County.

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

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

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

838           **SECTION 55.** Section 9-7-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
839 brought forward as follows:

840           9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit  
841 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each  
842 subdistrict.

843           **SECTION 56.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
844 brought forward as follows:

845           9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised  
846 of the following counties:

- 847                   (a) Clarke County;
- 848                   (b) Kemper County;
- 849                   (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 850                   (d) Wayne County.

851           **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
852 brought forward as follows:

853 9-7-32. There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth Circuit  
854 Court District.

855 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
856 amended as follows:

857 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be  
858 comprised of the following counties:

- 859 (a) Bolivar County;
- 860 (b) Coahoma County;
- 861 (c) Quitman County; and
- 862 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

867 (i) Bolivar County: Gunnison, West Rosedale, East  
868 Rosedale, Pace, Pleasant Green, Beulah, Roundlake/Deeson, Benoit,  
869 Scott, Northwest Cleveland, Cleveland Courthouse, \* \* \* West  
870 Cleveland, Longshot, North Cleveland, Skene, Shaw, Boyle, Choctaw  
871 and Stringtown Precincts; and

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

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

876 (i) Bolivar County: Alligator-Duncan, Shelby,  
877 Mound Bayou, Winstonville, Merigold, Renova, East Central  
878 Cleveland, West Central Cleveland, Cleveland Eastgate, South  
879 Cleveland and East Cleveland Precincts;

880 (ii) Coahoma County: Dublin, Cagle Crossing and  
881 Roundway Precincts; and

882 (iii) Quitman County: Southwest Marks, West  
883 Lambert and Lambert \* \* \* Precincts.

884 (c) Subdistrict 11-3 shall consist of Tunica County and  
885 the following precincts in the following counties:

886 (i) Coahoma County: Lula, Farrell, Friars Point,  
887 Lyon, Clarksdale 1-4, \* \* \* Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4,  
888 Clarksdale 4-2, Clarksdale 4-3, Clarksdale 5-4, \* \* \* Coahoma and  
889 Jonestown Precincts; and

890 (ii) Quitman County: Crenshaw, Sledge, \* \* \*  
891 Darling, Belen, Northwest Marks, Northeast Marks, East Marks-NE  
892 Lambert and Crowder Precincts.

893 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
894 brought forward as follows:

895 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh  
896 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each  
897 subdistrict.

898 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
899 brought forward as follows:

900 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be  
901 comprised of the following counties:

- 902 (a) Forrest County; and  
903 (b) Perry County.

904 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
905 brought forward as follows:

906 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be  
907 comprised of the following counties:

- 908 (a) Covington County;  
909 (b) Jasper County;  
910 (c) Simpson County; and  
911 (d) Smith County.

912 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
913 brought forward as follows:

914 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be  
915 comprised of the following counties:

- 916 (a) Lincoln County;  
917 (b) Pike County; and  
918 (c) Walthall County.

919 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit  
920 Court District.

921 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
922 brought forward as follows:

923 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be  
924 comprised of the following counties:

- 925 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 926 (b) Lamar County;
- 927 (c) Lawrence County;
- 928 (d) Marion County; and
- 929 (e) Pearl River County.

930 **SECTION 64.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
931 amended as follows:

932 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the  
933 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

934 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three  
935 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
936 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place  
937 Two" and "Place Three."

938 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
939 brought forward as follows:

940 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be  
941 comprised of the following counties:

- 942 (a) Clay County;
- 943 (b) Lowndes County;
- 944 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 945 (d) Oktibbeha County.

946 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
947 amended as follows:

948 9-7-44. There shall be three (3) judges for the Sixteenth  
949 Circuit Court District.

950 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
951 amended as follows:

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

953           9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be  
954 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

955           (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;

956 and

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

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

961           9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be  
962 comprised of the following counties:

963           (a) Panola County; \* \* \*

964           (b) \* \* \* Tallahatchie County;

965           (c) Tate County; and

966           (d) Yalobusha County.

967           **SECTION 68.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
968 amended as follows:

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

970           9-7-46. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the  
971 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

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

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

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

975 elected from Subdistrict 17-2. For purposes of appointment and

976 election, the two (2) judgeships in Subdistrict 17-1 shall be

977 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment

978 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

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

981           9-7-46. \* \* \* There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the  
982 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

983           \* \* \*

984           **SECTION 69.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
985 brought forward as follows:

986           9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones  
987 County.

988           **SECTION 70.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
989 brought forward as follows:

990           9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be  
991 comprised of the following counties:

- 992                   (a) George County;
- 993                   (b) Greene County; and
- 994                   (c) Jackson County.

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

1000           **SECTION 71.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1001 brought forward as follows:

1002           9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the  
1003 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. For the purposes of  
1004 appointment and election, the three (3) judgeships shall be  
1005 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment  
1006 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

1007           (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court  
1008 District may divide the court of any county within the district  
1009 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of  
1010 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the  
1011 court.

1012           **SECTION 72.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1013 amended as follows:

1014           9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be \* \* \*  
1015 Rankin County.

1016           **SECTION 73.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1017 amended as follows:

1018           9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth  
1019 Circuit Court District.

1020           (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two  
1021 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
1022 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
1023 "Place Two."

1024           **SECTION 74.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1025 brought forward as follows:

1026           9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be  
1027 comprised of the following counties:

- 1028           (a) Holmes County;
- 1029           (b) Humphreys County; and
- 1030           (c) Yazoo County.

1031           **SECTION 75.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1032 brought forward as follows:

1033           9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be  
1034 comprised of the following counties:

- 1035           (a) Claiborne County;
- 1036           (b) Covich County; and
- 1037           (c) Jefferson County.

1038           **SECTION 76.** The following shall be codified as Section  
1039 9-7-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1040           9-7-59. The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall be  
1041 Madison County and shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as  
1042 follows:

- 1043           (a) (i) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the  
1044 following precincts: Ratliff Ferry, Canton Precinct 2, Canton  
1045 Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 7, Smith School, Magnolia Heights,  
1046 Flora, Virililia, Canton Precinct 5, Liberty, New Industrial Park,  
1047 Madison County Baptist Family Life Center, Cameron, Couparle,



1048 Camden, Sharon, Canton Precinct 1, Canton Precinct 4, Luther  
1049 Branson School and Bible Church Precincts.

1050 (ii) Subdistrict 23-1 shall consist of the  
1051 following partial precincts: Madisonville, Bear Creek and  
1052 Gluckstadt Precincts. The Split Precinct Block List developed in  
1053 conjunction with Chapter 761, Laws of 2002, that details portions  
1054 of partial or split precincts that are contained within a  
1055 subdistrict by census tract and block number and was utilized in  
1056 developing the partial or split precincts of this subdistrict is  
1057 hereby incorporated and shall be construed to be an integral part  
1058 of this section.

1059 (b) (i) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of the  
1060 following precincts: Trace Harbor, Main Harbor, Victory Baptist  
1061 Church, Madison 1, Madison 2, Madison 3, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4,  
1062 Ridgeland First Methodist Church, Lorman-Cavalier, Ridgeland 1,  
1063 Tougaloo, Cobblestone Church of God, Highland Colony Baptist  
1064 Church and Whisper Lake Precincts.

1065 (ii) Subdistrict 23-2 shall consist of that  
1066 portion of the following partial precincts not included in  
1067 Subdistrict 23-1: Madisonville, Bear Creek and Gluckstadt  
1068 Precincts.

1069 **SECTION 77.** The following shall be codified as Section  
1070 9-7-60, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1071 9-7-60. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twenty-third  
1072 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each  
1073 subdistrict.

1074 **SECTION 78.** The following shall be codified as Section  
1075 9-7-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1076 9-7-61. (1) The Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District shall  
1077 be DeSoto County.

1078 (2) This section shall take effect and be in force from and  
1079 after January 1, 2014.

1080           **SECTION 79.** The following shall be codified as Section  
1081 9-7-62, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1082           9-7-62. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the  
1083 Twenty-fourth Circuit Court District.

1084           (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two  
1085 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for  
1086 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and  
1087 "Place Two."

1088           (3) This section shall take effect and be in force from and  
1089 after January 1, 2014.

1090           **SECTION 80.** Section 23-15-982, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1091 amended as follows:

1092           23-15-982. (1) Majority of vote equals any excess of the  
1093 total vote for all candidates divided by the number of judgeships  
1094 to be filled divided by two (2).

1095           If some or all candidates in a multijudge election do not  
1096 receive a majority of the vote, then candidates equal in number to  
1097 twice the number of remaining positions to be filled and having  
1098 the highest votes shall run in a runoff election. In such event,  
1099 if there is not a sufficient number of remaining candidates equal  
1100 to twice the number of remaining positions to be filled, then all  
1101 remaining candidates shall run in the runoff election.

1102           (2) Any tie votes which require resolution to determine who  
1103 shall enter a runoff election shall be determined by the  
1104 commissioners of election in the manner prescribed by Sections  
1105 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1106           Candidates equal to the remaining number of positions to be  
1107 filled who have the highest votes in the runoff election are  
1108 elected.

1109           Any tie votes which must be determined in order to decide who  
1110 is elected as a result of a runoff election shall be determined by  
1111 the State Election Commission in the manner prescribed by Sections  
1112 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1113           (3) The provisions of this section shall apply only to  
1114 districts and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except  
1115 for the First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth  
1116 Chancery Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third,  
1117 Eighth, Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court  
1118 Districts.

1119           **SECTION 81.** Section 23-15-983, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1120 amended as follows:

1121           23-15-983. At the general election, the candidates equal to  
1122 the number of positions to be filled and having the highest votes  
1123 shall be elected.

1124           Any tie votes in the general election which must be resolved  
1125 in order to determine who is elected shall be resolved in the  
1126 manner prescribed by Sections 23-15-601 and 23-15-605.

1127           The provisions of this section shall apply only to districts  
1128 and subdistricts which are multijudge districts except for the  
1129 First, Eighth, Tenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Twentieth Chancery  
1130 Court Districts and the Subdistrict 1-2, Second, Third, Eighth,  
1131 Subdistrict 17-1, Nineteenth and Twentieth Circuit Court  
1132 Districts.

1133           **SECTION 82.** No new judgeships or chancellorships created by  
1134 this act shall be filled until the judicial elections are  
1135 conducted in 2006. Any district attorneys for circuit court  
1136 districts created by this act whose term of office begins on  
1137 January 1, 2007, shall be elected at a special election to be held  
1138 at the same time as the judicial elections in 2006. Thereafter,  
1139 such district attorneys shall be elected at the time and in the  
1140 manner provided by law for electing district attorneys.

1141           **SECTION 83.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
1142 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
1143 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
1144 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
1145 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the

1146 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
1147 extended.

1148           **SECTION 84.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1149 and after January 1, 2006, provided that it is effectuated under  
1150 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
1151 extended.