

By: Representative Whittington

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 821

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-127 AND 23-15-129, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT THE REGISTRAR OF THE COUNTY OR  
3 MUNICIPALITY FROM DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
4 VIOLENCE FROM THE POLLBOOK, UPON NOTIFICATION BY A VICTIM OF  
5 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR BY A CONCERNED PARTY OF THE VICTIM; TO  
6 PROVIDE THAT NOTICE OF THE PROHIBITION BE GIVEN DURING THE  
7 ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION OF THE POLLBOOK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-127, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
10 is amended as follows:

11 23-15-127. (1) It shall be the duty of the registrar of the  
12 county or municipality to prepare and furnish to the appropriate  
13 election commissioner pollbooks for each voting precinct in which  
14 the election is to be conducted, in which shall be entered the  
15 name, residence, date of birth and date of registration of each  
16 person duly registered in such voting precinct as now provided by  
17 law, and which pollbooks shall be known as "primary election  
18 pollbooks" and shall be used only in holding primary elections.  
19 The election commissioners of the county or city shall revise such  
20 primary pollbooks at the time and in the manner and in accordance  
21 with the laws now fixed and in force for revising pollbooks now  
22 provided for under the law, except they shall not remove therefrom  
23 any person who is qualified under the provisions hereof to  
24 participate in such primary elections; all laws applicable to the  
25 revision of pollbooks now in use, shall be applicable to the  
26 revision of pollbooks for primary elections herein provided for,  
27 and all rights of voters to be heard and to appeal to the  
28 executive committee of his party from the action of such election  
29 commissioners now provided by law shall be available to the voter

30 in the revisions of the pollbooks for primary elections herein  
31 provided for.

32 (2) Upon notice by a victim of domestic violence as defined  
33 by Section 97-3-7 or a concerned party of such victim, it shall be  
34 the duty of the registrar of the county or municipality to  
35 prohibit the disclosure from the pollbook of the name, address or  
36 related information of such victim of domestic violence by issuing  
37 a clear prohibition to all employees or persons involved with  
38 handling of the pollbook.

39 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-129, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
40 amended as follows:

41 23-15-129. The commissioners of election and the registrars  
42 of the respective counties are hereby directed to make an  
43 administrative division of the pollbook for each county  
44 immediately following any reapportionment of the Mississippi  
45 Legislature or any realignment of supervisors districts, if  
46 necessary. Notice of the prohibition against disclosure of the  
47 identity of victims of domestic violence as defined in Section  
48 97-3-7 and provided for in 23-15-127(2) shall be given when the  
49 administrative division of the pollbook is made. Such an  
50 administrative division shall form subprecincts whenever necessary  
51 within each voting precinct so that all persons within a  
52 subprecinct shall vote on the same candidates for each public  
53 office. Separate pollbooks for each subprecinct shall be made.  
54 The polling place for all subprecincts within any given voting  
55 precinct shall be the same as the polling place for the voting  
56 precinct. Additional managers may be appointed for subprecincts  
57 in the discretion of the commissioners of election or, in the case  
58 of primary elections, in the discretion of the proper executive  
59 committee.

60 **SECTION 3.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
61 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
62 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the

63 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
64 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
65 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
66 extended.

67       **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
68 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
69 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.