

By: Representatives Gunn, Staples,  
Martinson, Stevens

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 917

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-281, 23-15-283 AND 19-3-1,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE IDENTIFIABLE BOUNDARIES FOR  
3 SUPERVISORS DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-281, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 23-15-281. Each county shall be divided into supervisors  
8 districts, which shall be the same as those for the election of  
9 members of the board of supervisors, and may be subdivided  
10 thereafter into voting precincts; and there shall be only one (1)  
11 voting place in each voting precinct. The boundaries of such  
12 supervisors districts and voting precincts shall be identifiable  
13 and visible natural \* \* \* boundaries such as streets, highways,  
14 railroads, rivers, lakes, bayous or other obvious lines of  
15 demarcation except county lines and municipal corporate limits.  
16 The board of supervisors, no later than April 1, 2006, shall  
17 notify the office of the Secretary of State of the boundary of  
18 each supervisors district and voting precinct as then fixed and  
19 shall provide said office a legal description and a map of each  
20 supervisors district and voting precinct and shall indicate the  
21 voting place in each such district.

22 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-283, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
23 amended as follows:

24 23-15-283. The board of supervisors shall have power to  
25 alter the boundaries of the supervisors districts, voting  
26 precincts and the voting place therein; and if they order a change  
27 in the boundaries, they shall notify the commissioners of

28 election, who shall at once cause the registration books of voting  
29 precincts affected thereby to be so changed as to conform to the  
30 change of districts, and to contain only the names of the  
31 qualified electors in the voting precincts as made by the change  
32 of boundaries. Upon the order of change in the boundaries of any  
33 voting precinct or the voting place therein, the board of  
34 supervisors shall notify the office of the Secretary of State and  
35 provide said office a legal description and a map of any boundary  
36 change. No change shall be implemented or enforced until the  
37 requirements of this section have been met. Provided, however,  
38 that, with the exception of county lines and municipal corporate  
39 limits, such altered boundaries shall conform to identifiable and  
40 visible natural \* \* \* boundaries such as streets, highways,  
41 railroads, rivers, lakes, bayous or other obvious lines of  
42 demarcation.

43 **SECTION 3.** Section 19-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
44 amended as follows:

45 19-3-1. Each county shall be divided into five (5)  
46 districts, with due regard to equality of population and  
47 convenience of situation for the election of members of the boards  
48 of supervisors, but the districts as now existing shall continue  
49 until changed. The qualified electors of each district shall  
50 elect, at the next general election, and every four (4) years  
51 thereafter, in their districts one (1) member of the board of  
52 supervisors. The board, by a three-fifths (  $3/5$ ) vote of all  
53 members elected, may at any time, change or alter the districts,  
54 the boundaries to be entered at large in the minutes of the  
55 proceedings of the board. Provided, however, that such changed  
56 boundaries shall \* \* \* conform as to identifiable and visible,  
57 natural \* \* \* boundaries, such as streets, highways, railroads,  
58 rivers, lakes, bayous or other obvious lines of demarcation,  
59 except county lines and municipal corporate limits.

60 In the event the boundaries of the districts are changed or  
61 altered by order of the board of supervisors as hereinabove  
62 provided, the order so doing shall be published in a newspaper  
63 having general circulation in the county once each week for three  
64 (3) consecutive weeks.

65 **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
66 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
67 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
68 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
69 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
70 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
71 extended.

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