

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2626

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3, 9-5-5, 9-5-7,
 2 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-13, 9-5-15, 9-5-17, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22,
 3 9-5-23, 9-5-25, 9-5-27, 9-5-29, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-36,
 4 9-5-37, 9-5-38, 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47,
 5 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-51, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55, 9-5-57, 9-5-58,
 6 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-5, 9-7-7, 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-14, 9-7-15,
 7 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-27, 9-7-29,
 8 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32, 9-7-33, 9-7-34, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39,
 9 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-43, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-47, 9-7-49,
 10 9-7-51, 9-7-53, 9-7-54, 9-7-55 AND 9-7-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 11 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT FOR JUDICIAL REDISTRICTING; AND
 12 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 15 brought forward as follows:

16 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
 17 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
 18 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
 19 existed on October 1, 1990. He shall hold court in any other
 20 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
 21 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
 22 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
 23 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
 24 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a
 25 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be
 26 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
 27 divided into subdistricts.

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

30 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
 31 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and
 32 comprised of the counties as set forth in the sections which

33 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
34 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
35 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
36 twice a year. From and after January 1, 1995, the dates upon
37 which court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting
38 of a single county shall be the same dates state agencies and
39 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
40 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
41 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
42 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
43 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
44 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
45 such terms if the interest of justice so requires.

46 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
47 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
48 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
49 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
50 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
51 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
52 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
53 shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery court
54 district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of
55 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
56 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
57 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
58 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
59 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain
60 unchanged for the next calendar year.

61 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
62 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
63 following criteria:

64 (a) The population of the district;

65 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;

- 66 (c) The case load of each chancellor in the district;
- 67 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 68 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
- 69 court personnel of the district; and
- 70 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

71 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
72 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
73 the appropriate:

- 74 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
- 75 applying the above criteria;
- 76 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
- 77 data; and
- 78 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

79 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
80 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
81 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
82 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
83 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
84 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
85 the longest time a member of the Mississippi Bar, shall be the
86 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
87 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
88 of more than one (1) county.

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

91 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District shall be comprised
92 of the following counties:

- 93 (a) Alcorn County;
- 94 (b) Itawamba County;
- 95 (c) Lee County;
- 96 (d) Monroe County;
- 97 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 98 (f) Prentiss County;

99 (g) Tishomingo County; and

100 (h) Union County.

101 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
102 brought forward as follows:

103 9-5-7. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the First
104 Chancery Court District.

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

107 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised
108 of the following counties:

109 (a) Jasper County;

110 (b) Newton County; and

111 (c) Scott County.

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

114 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be
115 comprised of the following counties:

116 (a) DeSoto County;

117 (b) Grenada County;

118 (c) Montgomery County;

119 (d) Panola County;

120 (e) Tate County; and

121 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

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

125 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
126 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
127 County.

128 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
129 brought forward as follows:

130 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
131 Third Chancery Court District.

132 (2) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected from
133 DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2 shall
134 be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County,
135 Tate County and Yalobusha County.

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

138 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be
139 comprised of the following counties:

- 140 (a) Amite County;
- 141 (b) Franklin County;
- 142 (c) Pike County; and
- 143 (d) Walthall County.

144 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
145 brought forward as follows:

146 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be
147 comprised of Hinds County.

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

150 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
151 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
152 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
153 10, 32, 47 and 97.

154 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
155 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
156 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
157 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

158 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
159 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
160 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
161 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64.

162 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
163 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
164 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram, Cayuga,

165 Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5,
166 Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Old
167 Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

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

170 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
171 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
172 elected from each subdistrict.

173 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
174 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
175 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
176 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
177 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
178 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
179 the court.

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

182 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
183 of the following counties:

- 184 (a) Attala County;
- 185 (b) Carroll County;
- 186 (c) Choctaw County;
- 187 (d) Kemper County;
- 188 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 189 (f) Winston County.

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

192 9-5-22. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Sixth
193 Chancery Court District.

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

196 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be
197 comprised of the following counties:

- 198 (a) Bolivar County;
199 (b) Coahoma County;
200 (c) Leflore County;
201 (d) Quitman County;
202 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
203 (f) Tunica County.

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

- 206 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
207 Coahoma County;
208 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
209 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

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

212 9-5-25. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventh
213 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
214 each subdistrict.

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

217 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be
218 comprised of the following counties:

- 219 (a) Hancock County;
220 (b) Harrison County; and
221 (c) Stone County.

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

224 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
225 Eighth Chancery Court District.

226 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
227 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
228 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
229 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

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

237 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
238 brought forward as follows:

239 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be
240 comprised of the following counties:

- 241 (a) Humphreys County;
- 242 (b) Issaquena County;
- 243 (c) Sharkey County;
- 244 (d) Sunflower County;
- 245 (e) Warren County; and
- 246 (f) Washington County.

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

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

251 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North,
252 Indianola 3 South, Ruleville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale, Rome,
253 Sunflower Plantation, Drew and Ruleville North Precincts; and

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

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

261 (i) Sunflower County: Inverness, Indianola 1,
262 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East, Sunflower, Indianola
263 3 Northeast and Doddsville Precincts; and

264 (ii) Washington County: St. James Episcopal
265 Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic,
266 Italian Club, Ward's Recreation Center, Avon Health Center, Arcola
267 City Hall, Kapco Co., Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist
268 Church, Mangelardi Bourbon Store and Grace Methodist Church
269 Precincts.

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

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

274 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
275 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
276 each subdistrict.

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

279 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
280 of the following counties:

- 281 (a) Forrest County;
- 282 (b) Lamar County;
- 283 (c) Marion County;
- 284 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 285 (e) Perry County.

286 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
287 brought forward as follows:

288 9-5-36. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
289 Tenth Chancery Court District.

290 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
291 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
292 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
293 Two" and "Place Three," respectively. The chancellor to fill

294 Place One shall be a resident of Forrest, Lamar, Marion, Pearl
295 River or Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Two shall be
296 a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County. The
297 chancellor to fill Place Three shall be a resident of Forrest
298 County. Election of the three (3) offices of chancellor shall be
299 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
300 Court District of Mississippi.

301 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
302 brought forward as follows:

303 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be
304 comprised of the following counties:

- 305 (a) Holmes County;
- 306 (b) Leake County;
- 307 (c) Madison County; and
- 308 (d) Yazoo County.

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

- 311 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
312 Yazoo County and Canton Precinct 4, Canton Precinct 5, Smith
313 School, Magnolia Heights and Flora Precincts of Madison County;
- 314 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
315 Farmhaven, Madisonville, Trace Harbor, Canton Precinct 1, Canton
316 Precinct 2, Canton Precinct 3, Canton Precinct 6, Cameron Street,
317 Bear Creek, Madison, Ridgeland, Gluckstadt, Lorman/Cavalier,
318 Virililia, Cameron, Couparle, Camden and Sharon Precincts of
319 Madison County.

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

322 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh
323 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
324 each subdistrict.

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

327 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be
328 comprised of the following counties:

329 (a) Clarke County; and

330 (b) Lauderdale County.

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

333 9-5-40. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
334 Chancery Court District.

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

337 9-5-41. The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be
338 comprised of the following counties:

339 (a) Covington County;

340 (b) Jefferson Davis County;

341 (c) Lawrence County;

342 (d) Simpson County; and

343 (e) Smith County.

344 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
345 brought forward as follows:

346 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
347 comprised of the following counties:

348 (a) Chickasaw County;

349 (b) Clay County;

350 (c) Lowndes County;

351 (d) Noxubee County;

352 (e) Oktibbeha County; and

353 (f) Webster County.

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

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

358 West Starkville, Adaton, North Longview, Self Creek, Double

359 Springs, Northeast Starkville, East Starkville, North Starkville,

360 Maben, South Starkville, South Longview, Craig Springs, Bradley,
361 Center Grove and Sturgis Precincts.

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

364 (i) Clay County: Vinton, East West Point, Siloam,
365 Central West Point, South West Point and Cedar Bluff Precincts;
366 and

367 (ii) Lowndes County: Caledonia, Steens A, Steens
368 B, Caldwell, Stokes Beard B, Fairview, Sale, Rural Hill B, Lee
369 High, Brandon, Franklin, Air Base A, Air Base B, Air Base C,
370 Steens C, Rural Hill A, New Hope A, Mitchell, New Hope B, Union
371 Academy A and University A Precincts.

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

374 (i) Clay County: North West Point, Union Star,
375 Tibbee, Cairo, Caradine, Una, West West Point, Pheba and Pine
376 Bluff Precincts;

377 (ii) Lowndes County: Stokes Beard A, Fair
378 Grounds, Coleman, Plum Grove A, Crawford A, Hunt B, Hunt A, Union
379 Academy B, University B, West Lowndes, Artesia, Mayhew, Crawford
380 B, Crawford C, New Hope C and Plum Grove B Precincts; and

381 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Osborn, Hickory Grove,
382 Bell Schoolhouse, Central Starkville, Gillespie Street Center,
383 Sessums and Oktoc Precincts.

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

386 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
387 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
388 elected from each subdistrict.

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

391 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be
392 comprised of the following counties:

393 (a) Covich County; and

394 (b) Lincoln County.

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

397 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be
398 comprised of the following counties:

399 (a) George County;

400 (b) Greene County; and

401 (c) Jackson County.

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

404 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
405 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

406 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three
407 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
408 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One,"
409 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

410 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
411 brought forward as follows:

412 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall
413 be comprised of the following counties:

414 (a) Adams County;

415 (b) Claiborne County;

416 (c) Jefferson County; and

417 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

420 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
421 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
422 Maryland Heights, Palestine, Northside School, Thompson, Pine
423 Ridge, Airport, Anchorage and Washington Precincts.

424 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
425 and the following precincts in Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass

426 Fire Station, Cloverdale, Bellemont, Carpenter No. 1, Duncan Park,
427 Beau Pre, Kingston, Concord, Liberty Park, Morgantown and Oakland
428 Precincts.

429 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
430 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
431 each subdistrict.

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

434 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be
435 comprised of the following counties:

- 436 (a) Benton County;
- 437 (b) Calhoun County;
- 438 (c) Lafayette County;
- 439 (d) Marshall County; and
- 440 (e) Tippah County.

441 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
442 brought forward as follows:

443 9-5-54. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
444 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

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

447 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be
448 comprised of the following counties:

- 449 (a) Jones County; and
- 450 (b) Wayne County.

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

453 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
454 comprised of Rankin County.

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

457 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth
458 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election

459 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
460 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
461 "Place One" and "Place Two."

462 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
463 brought forward as follows:

464 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
465 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
466 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 1990. He
467 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
468 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
469 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
470 the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of office shall
471 continue for four (4) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident
472 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be
473 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
474 divided into subdistricts.

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

477 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
478 of circuit court districts severally numbered and comprised of the
479 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
480 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
481 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
482 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. From and after
483 January 1, 1995, the dates upon which court shall be held in
484 circuit court districts consisting of a single county shall be the
485 same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for
486 business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
487 shall commence and the number of days for which such terms shall
488 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
489 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
490 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

491 A matter in court may extend past such times if the interest of
492 justice so requires.

493 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
494 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
495 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
496 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
497 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
498 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
499 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
500 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
501 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
502 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
503 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
504 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
505 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
506 counties within any such circuit court district shall remain
507 unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any
508 order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall,
509 immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of
510 the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the
511 circuit court district.

512 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
513 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
514 criteria:

- 515 (a) The population of the district;
- 516 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 517 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
- 518 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 519 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
520 court personnel of the district; and
- 521 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

522 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
523 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
524 the appropriate:

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

527 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
528 data; and

529 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

530 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
531 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
532 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
533 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
534 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
535 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of the
536 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
537 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
538 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county.

539 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
540 brought forward as follows:

541 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District shall be comprised
542 of the following counties:

543 (a) Alcorn County;

544 (b) Itawamba County;

545 (c) Lee County;

546 (d) Monroe County;

547 (e) Pontotoc County;

548 (f) Prentiss County; and

549 (g) Tishomingo County.

550 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
551 brought forward as follows:

552 9-7-7. There shall be three (3) judges for the First Circuit
553 Court District.

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

556 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised
557 of the following counties:

- 558 (a) Hancock County;
- 559 (b) Harrison County; and
- 560 (c) Stone County.

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

563 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
564 Second Circuit Court District.

565 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the four
566 (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
567 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
568 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

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

571 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised
572 of the following counties:

- 573 (a) Benton County;
- 574 (b) Calhoun County;
- 575 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 576 (d) Lafayette County;
- 577 (e) Marshall County;
- 578 (f) Tippah County; and
- 579 (g) Union County.

580 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
581 brought forward as follows:

582 9-7-14. There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the Third
583 Circuit Court District.

584 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
585 brought forward as follows:

586 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
587 composed of the following counties:

- 588 (a) Leflore County;
- 589 (b) Sunflower County; and
- 590 (c) Washington County.

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

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

595 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,
596 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi
597 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

598 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
599 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
600 Ruleville North Precincts.

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

603 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,
604 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South and Indianola 3 Northeast
605 Precincts; and

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

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

612 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East
613 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta
614 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,
615 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

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

618 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
619 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
620 Bourbon Store Precincts.

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

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

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

632 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
633 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
634 elected from each subdistrict.

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

637 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
638 of the following counties:

- 639 (a) Attala County;
- 640 (b) Carroll County;
- 641 (c) Choctaw County;
- 642 (d) Grenada County;
- 643 (e) Montgomery County;
- 644 (f) Webster County; and
- 645 (g) Winston County.

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

648 9-7-20. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit
649 Court District.

650 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
651 brought forward as follows:

652 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be
653 comprised of the following counties:

- 654 (a) Adams County;
- 655 (b) Amite County;
- 656 (c) Franklin County; and
- 657 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

662 (i) Adams County: Courthouse, By-Pass Fire
663 Station, Cloverdale, Carpenter No. 1, Concord, Maryland Heights,
664 Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge, Airport and Anchorage
665 Precincts; and

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

668 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County,
669 all of Amite County except Gloster, Ariel, Homochitto, Crosby,
670 East Centreville, Street and Berwick Precincts and the following
671 precincts in Adams County: Bellemont, Duncan Park, Beau Pre,
672 Kingston, Liberty Park, Palestine, Morgantown, Oakland and
673 Washington Precincts.

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

677 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
678 brought forward as follows:

679 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
680 comprised of Hinds County.

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

683 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
684 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
685 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
686 10, 32, 47 and 97.

687 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
688 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
689 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
690 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

691 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
692 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
693 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
694 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64.

695 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
696 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
697 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram, Cayuga,
698 Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5,
699 Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Old
700 Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

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

703 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
704 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
705 from each subdistrict.

706 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
707 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
708 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
709 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
710 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
711 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
712 of the court.

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

715 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be
716 comprised of the following counties:

- 717 (a) Leake County;
- 718 (b) Neshoba County;
- 719 (c) Newton County; and
- 720 (d) Scott County.

721 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
722 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created
723 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,
724 1997, Ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit
725 judges generally.

726 (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
727 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
728 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
729 "Place Two."

730 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
731 brought forward as follows:

732 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be
733 comprised of the following counties:

- 734 (a) Issaquena County;
- 735 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 736 (c) Warren County.

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

739 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
740 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: St.
741 Aloysius, Kings, Cedar Grove, Waltersville, Auditorium, Brunswick,
742 Vicksburg Junior High School and American Legion Precincts.

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

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

749 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
750 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
751 subdistrict.

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

754 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
755 of the following counties:

- 756 (a) Clarke County;
- 757 (b) Kemper County;
- 758 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 759 (d) Wayne County.

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

762 9-7-32. There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth Circuit
763 Court District.

764 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
765 brought forward as follows:

766 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be
767 comprised of the following counties:

- 768 (a) Bolivar County;
- 769 (b) Coahoma County;
- 770 (c) Quitman County; and
- 771 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

- 776 (i) Bolivar County: Gunnison, Rosedale, Pace,
777 Benoit, Scott, East-Central Cleveland, Cleveland Courthouse,
778 Central Cleveland, West Cleveland, Longshot, North Cleveland,
779 Skene, Shaw, Boyle and Stringtown Precincts; and

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

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

784 (i) Bolivar County: Alligator-Duncan, Shelby,
785 Mound Bayou, Winstonville, Merigold, and East Cleveland Precincts;

786 (ii) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 4-2, Mattson,
787 Clarksdale 3-3, Cagle Crossing and Roundway Precincts; and

788 (iii) Quitman County: North Marks, West Marks,
789 Sabino, West Lambert, Lambert, and Mattie Precincts.

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

792 (i) Coahoma County: Lula, Farrell, Friars Point,
793 Lyon, Clarksdale 1-4, Clarksdale 1-4A, Clarksdale 1-4B, Clarksdale
794 1-4C, Clarksdale 1-4D, Clarksdale 1-4E, Clarksdale 1-4F,
795 Clarksdale 2-4A, Clarksdale 2-4B, Clarksdale 2-4C, Clarksdale
796 3-3A, Clarksdale 3-3B, Clarksdale 3-3C, Clarksdale 3-3D,
797 Clarksdale 3-3E, Clarksdale 3-3F, Clarksdale 4-2A, Clarksdale 5-4,
798 Clarksdale 5-4A, Clarksdale 5-4B, Coahoma and Jonestown Precincts;
799 and

800 (ii) Quitman County: Crenshaw, Sledge, Birdie
801 Darling, Belen, Marks, and Crowder Precincts.

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

804 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
805 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
806 subdistrict.

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

809 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be
810 comprised of the following counties:

811 (a) Forrest County; and

812 (b) Perry County.

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

815 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be
816 comprised of the following counties:

- 817 (a) Covington County;
- 818 (b) Jasper County;
- 819 (c) Simpson County; and
- 820 (d) Smith County.

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

823 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
824 comprised of the following counties:

- 825 (a) Lincoln County;
- 826 (b) Pike County; and
- 827 (c) Walthall County.

828 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth Circuit
829 Court District.

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

832 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be
833 comprised of the following counties:

- 834 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 835 (b) Lamar County;
- 836 (c) Lawrence County;
- 837 (d) Marion County; and
- 838 (e) Pearl River County.

839 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
840 brought forward as follows:

841 9-7-42. There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
842 Circuit Court District.

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

845 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be
846 comprised of the following counties:

- 847 (a) Clay County;
- 848 (b) Lowndes County;
- 849 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 850 (d) Oktibbeha County.

851 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
852 brought forward as follows:

853 9-7-44. There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixteenth
854 Circuit Court District.

855 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
856 brought forward as follows:

857 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
858 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 859 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;
- 860 and
- 861 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Panola County,
862 Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

863 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
864 brought forward as follows:

865 9-7-46. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
866 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

867 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the three
868 (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and one (1) judge
869 shall be elected from Subdistrict 17-1 and two (2) judges shall be
870 elected from Subdistrict 17-2.

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

873 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
874 County.

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

877 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be
878 comprised of the following counties:

- 879 (a) George County;
- 880 (b) Greene County; and
- 881 (c) Jackson County.

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

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

889 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
890 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. For the purposes of
891 appointment and election, the three (3) judgeships shall be
892 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
893 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

894 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
895 District may divide the court of any county within the district
896 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
897 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
898 court.

899 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
900 brought forward as follows:

901 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be
902 comprised of the following counties:

- 903 (a) Madison County; and
- 904 (b) Rankin County.

905 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
906 brought forward as follows:

907 9-7-54. There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
908 Circuit Court District.

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

911 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be
912 comprised of the following counties:

- 913 (a) Holmes County;
- 914 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 915 (c) Yazoo County.

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

918 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be
919 comprised of the following counties:

- 920 (a) Claiborne County;
- 921 (b) Copiah County; and
- 922 (c) Jefferson County.

923 **SECTION 75.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
924 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
925 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
926 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
927 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
928 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
929 extended.

930 **SECTION 76.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
931 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
932 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.