

By: Representatives Brown,  
Watson

To: County Affairs;  
Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 23

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 17-7-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCLUDE NATURAL DISASTER AS A QUALIFYING CRITERION FOR THE  
3 DISCRETIONARY REMOVAL OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNIT FROM THE USUAL  
4 SEAT OF THAT GOVERNMENTAL UNIT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 17-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 17-7-1. (1) Whenever, due to an emergency resulting from a  
9 natural disaster, the effects of enemy attack, or the anticipated  
10 effects of a threatened enemy attack, it becomes imprudent,  
11 inexpedient or impossible to conduct the affairs of municipal and  
12 county governments or any subdivisions thereof at the regular or  
13 usual place or places thereof, the governing body of each  
14 political subdivision of this state may meet at any place within  
15 or without the territorial limits of such political subdivision on  
16 the call of the presiding officer or any two (2) members of such  
17 governing body, and shall proceed to establish and designate by  
18 ordinance, resolution or other manner, alternate or substitute  
19 sites or places as the emergency temporary location, or locations,  
20 of government where all, or any part, of the public business may  
21 be transacted and conducted during the emergency situation. Such  
22 sites or places may be within or without the territorial limits of  
23 such political subdivision and may be within or without this  
24 state.

25 (2) For the purposes of this chapter, "natural disaster"  
26 means a natural disaster as declared by the Governor.

27 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
28 and after August 29, 2005.