

By: Representative Reynolds

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 221
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY
2 OR GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF ANY MUNICIPALITY MAY PETITION A CIRCUIT
3 COURT IN HINDS COUNTY TO REQUEST THAT SUCH PETITIONING COUNTY'S
4 ELECTIONS BE DELAYED AND RESCHEDULED, AND ALTERNATE VOTING
5 LOCATIONS AND SYSTEMS BE SPECIFIED WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME FROM THE
6 ORIGINAL DATE OF AN ELECTION DURING EMERGENCIES THAT AFFECT THE
7 ELECTORAL PROCESS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** The board of supervisors of any county or
10 governing authority of any municipality may petition a circuit
11 court in Hinds County to request that such petitioning county's or
12 petitioning municipality's elections be delayed and rescheduled,
13 or alternate voting locations and systems be specified by such
14 Hinds County Circuit Court within ninety (90) days from the
15 original date of an election, if the following conditions occur:

16 (a) The Governor proclaims a state of emergency in the
17 petitioning county or petitioning municipality and the state of
18 emergency interferes with the electoral process in such a manner
19 that prohibits electors from voting; or

20 (b) If emergency circumstances, not constituting a
21 declared state of emergency, interfere with the electoral process.

22 The Hinds County Circuit Judge that reschedules the elections
23 or determines alternate voting locations and systems shall direct
24 the rescheduling of the election until a specific date provided
25 that the same date must be set for the entirety of any district in
26 which an election is being rescheduled or alternate voting
27 locations and systems are determined.

28 (c) If the circuit court enters any order affecting any
29 election under this act, any person may immediately appeal such

30 order to the Supreme Court and such appeal shall take precedence
31 over all other appeals and shall be decided by the Supreme Court
32 with all deliberate speed.

33 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
34 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
35 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
36 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
37 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
38 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
39 extended.

40 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
42 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.