

By: Representatives Rotenberry, Lott

To: Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 473

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THE CENTRALIZED DATABASE OF REGISTERED VOTERS TO
3 INCLUDE THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF EACH REGISTERED VOTER IN THE
4 STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 23-15-165. (1) From and after July 1, 2002, the Office of
9 the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the local registrars
10 and election commissioners, shall begin to procure, implement and
11 maintain an electronic information processing system and programs
12 capable of maintaining a centralized database of all registered
13 voters in the state. The database shall include the social
14 security number of each registered voter in the state. The system
15 shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state and
16 county level, software development training, conversion and
17 support and maintenance for the system. This system shall be
18 known as the "Statewide Centralized Voter System" and shall
19 constitute the official record of registered voters in every
20 county of the state.

21 (2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall develop and
22 implement the Statewide Centralized Voter System so that the
23 registrar and election commissioners of each county shall:

24 (a) Verify that an applicant that is registering to
25 vote in such county is not registered to vote in another county;

26 (b) Be notified automatically that a registered voter
27 in its county has registered to vote in another county;

28 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of
29 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes that apply to
30 voters registered in the county; and

31 (d) Retain all present functionality related to, but
32 not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement such
33 other functionality as the law requires to enhance the maintenance
34 of accurate county voter records and related jury selection and
35 redistricting programs.

36 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the
37 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the
38 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary
39 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into
40 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the
41 Statewide Centralized Voter System. Thereafter, all official
42 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Centralized
43 Voter System. The standard industry accepted format of data shall
44 be reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee
45 created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with
46 the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed
47 without majority approval of the advisory committee and without
48 consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

49 (4) The Secretary of State may, with the assistance of the
50 advisory committee, adopt rules and regulations necessary to
51 administer the Statewide Centralized Voter System. Such rules and
52 regulations shall at least:

53 (a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a
54 centralized database for all voter registration information in the
55 state;

56 (b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the
57 centralized database;

58 (c) Provide security to insure that only the registrar,
59 or his designee or other appropriate official, as the law may

60 require, can add information to, delete information from and
61 modify information in the system;

62 (d) Provide the registrar or his designee or other
63 appropriate official, as the law may require, access to the system
64 at all times, including the ability to download copies of the
65 industry standard file, for all purposes related to their official
66 duties, including, but not limited to, exclusive access for the
67 purpose of printing of all local pollbooks;

68 (e) Provide security and protection of all information
69 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized
70 access is not allowed;

71 (f) Provide a procedure that will allow the registrar,
72 or his designee or other appropriate official, as the law may
73 require, to identify the precinct and subprecinct to which a voter
74 should be assigned; and

75 (g) Provide a procedure for phasing in or converting
76 existing manual and computerized voter registration systems in
77 counties to the Statewide Centralized Voter System.

78 (5) The Secretary of State shall establish an advisory
79 committee to assist in developing system specifications,
80 procurement, implementation and maintenance of the Statewide
81 Centralized Voter System. The committee shall include two (2)
82 representatives from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by
83 the association; two (2) representatives from the Election
84 Commissioners Association of Mississippi, appointed by the
85 association; one (1) member of the Mississippi Association of
86 Supervisors, or its staff, appointed by the association; the
87 Director of the Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi
88 State University, or his designee; the Executive Director of the
89 Department of Information Technology Services, or his designee;
90 two (2) persons knowledgeable about elections and information
91 technology appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary

92 of State, who shall serve as the chairman of the advisory
93 committee.

94 (6) (a) Social security numbers, telephone numbers and date
95 of birth and age information in statewide, district, county and
96 municipal voter registration files shall be exempt from and shall
97 not be subject to inspection, examination, copying or reproduction
98 under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983.

99 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal
100 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,
101 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be
102 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public
103 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of
104 production.

105 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
106 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
107 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
108 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
109 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
110 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
111 extended.

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