

By: Representatives Robinson (84th),  
Snowden, Young

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 630

1 AN ACT TO CREATE SECTION 9-9-18.2, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL COUNTY COURT JUDGE FOR LAUDERDALE  
3 COUNTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
6 9-9-18.2, Mississippi Code of 1972:

7 9-9-18.2. (1) In order to relieve the crowded condition of  
8 the docket in the county court and in the Youth Court of  
9 Lauderdale County, and particularly to facilitate and make  
10 possible the trial and disposition of the large number of causes  
11 on said docket and in the youth court, there shall be two (2)  
12 county judges for Lauderdale County, Mississippi, provided for and  
13 elected as herein set out.

14 (2) For the purposes of nomination and election, the two (2)  
15 judgeships shall be separate and distinct, the presently existing  
16 judgment and its succession to be denominated for purposes of  
17 appointment, nomination and election only and Place One and the  
18 judgeship hereby created and its succession for said selfsame  
19 purposes and none other to be designated as Place Two. There  
20 shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers, duties and  
21 emoluments of the two (2) offices of county judge, except that the  
22 county judge of Lauderdale County who has been for the longest  
23 time continuously a county judgment of the county shall have the  
24 right to assign causes, terms and dockets. Should neither judge  
25 of the county court have served longer than the other, then that  
26 judge of the county court who has been for the longest time a

27 member of The Mississippi Bar shall have the right to assign  
28 causes, terms and dockets.

29 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the  
30 powers and duties of the said county judges, other than as cast  
31 upon them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the county  
32 court of Lauderdale County may, in the discretion of the county  
33 judge who has been for the longest time continuously a judge of  
34 said court, be divided into civil, equity, criminal and youth  
35 court divisions as a matter of convenience by the entry of an  
36 order upon the minutes of the court.

37 (4) The two (2) county judges shall be elected at the same  
38 time and in the same manner now prescribed by law for the existing  
39 county court judgeship of Lauderdale County.

40 (5) The Board of Supervisors of Lauderdale County may, in  
41 its discretion, set aside, appropriate and expend monies from the  
42 general fund to be used in the payment of salaries of judges,  
43 clerks, reporters, officers and employees of the youth court  
44 division of the county court, including the related facilities of  
45 the youth court division of the county court, and such funds shall  
46 be expended for no other purposes. The county shall not be  
47 reimbursed for the amount of any such levy provided for by the  
48 section under the terms of the Homestead Exemption Law.

49 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
50 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
51 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
52 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
53 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
54 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
55 extended.

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