

By: Representative Ellington

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1330

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-11-3 AND 9-11-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE
2 OF 1972, TO REVISE JUDICIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR JUSTICE
3 COURT JUDGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 9-11-3. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, no justice
8 court judge elected for a full term of office commencing on or
9 after January 1, 1992, shall exercise the judicial functions of
10 his office or be eligible to take the oath of office unless he has
11 filed in the office of the chancery clerk a certificate of
12 completion of a course of training and education conducted by the
13 Mississippi Judicial College of the University of Mississippi Law
14 Center within six (6) months of the beginning of the term for
15 which such justice is elected. A justice court judge who has
16 completed the course of training and education and has satisfied
17 his annual continuing education course requirements, and who is
18 then elected for a succeeding term of office subsequent to the
19 initial term for which he completed the training course, shall not
20 be required to repeat the training and education course upon
21 reelection.

22 (2) In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection
23 (1) of this section, after taking office, each justice court judge
24 shall be required to file annually in the office of the chancery
25 clerk a certificate of completion of four (4) courses of
26 continuing education conducted by the Mississippi Judicial
27 College.

28 (3) The requirements for obtaining each of the certificates
29 in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be as provided in
30 Section 9-11-4.

31 (4) Upon the failure of any justice court judge to file with
32 the chancery clerk the certificates of completion as provided in
33 subsections (1) and (2) of this section, such justice court judge
34 shall, in addition to any other fine or punishment provided by law
35 for such conduct, not be entitled to compensation for the period
36 of time during which such certificates remain unfiled.

37 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-11-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
38 amended as follows:

39 9-11-4. (1) The Mississippi Judicial College of the
40 University of Mississippi Law Center shall prepare and conduct
41 courses of training for basic and continuing education for justice
42 court judges of this state. The basic course of training shall be
43 known as the "Justice Court Judge Training Course" and shall
44 consist of at least thirty-two (32) hours of training. The
45 continuing education course shall be known as the "Continuing
46 Education Course for Justice Court Judges," and shall consist of
47 at least twenty-four (24) hours of training. Justice court judges
48 shall attend at least four (4) courses each year. The content of
49 the basic and continuing education courses and when and where such
50 courses are to be conducted shall be determined by the Judicial
51 College. The Judicial College shall issue certificates of
52 completion to those justice court judges who complete such
53 courses.

54 (2) All costs and expenses for preparing and conducting the
55 basic and continuing education courses provided for in subsection
56 (1) of this section shall be paid out of any funds which are made
57 available to the Judicial College upon authorization and
58 appropriation by the Legislature.

59 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2006.