

By: Representative Walley

To: County Affairs;
Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1347
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-211, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ANNUAL PAID TRAINING DAYS FOR
3 COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 **[Until June 30, 2008, this section shall read as follows:]**

8 23-15-211. (1) There shall be a State Board of Election
9 Commissioners to consist of the Governor, the Secretary of State
10 and the Attorney General, any two (2) of whom may perform the
11 duties required of the board; a board of election commissioners in
12 each county to consist of five (5) persons who are electors in the
13 county in which they are to act; and a registrar in each county
14 who shall be the clerk of the circuit court, unless he shall be
15 shown to be an improper person to register the names of the
16 electors therein.

17 (2) The board of supervisors of each county shall pay
18 members of the county election commission for attending training
19 events a per diem in the amount provided in Section 23-15-153;
20 however, the per diem shall not be paid to an election
21 commissioner for more than twelve (12) days of training per year
22 and shall only be paid to election commissioners who actually
23 attend and complete a training event and obtain a training
24 certificate.

25 (3) Included in this twelve (12) days shall be an elections
26 seminar, conducted and sponsored by the Secretary of State.
27 Election commissioners and chairpersons of each political party

28 executive committee, or their designee, shall be required to
29 attend.

30 (4) Each participant shall receive a certificate from the
31 Secretary of State indicating that the named participant has
32 received the elections training seminar instruction and that each
33 participant is fully qualified to conduct an election.

34 (5) The Secretary of State shall develop a single,
35 comprehensive poll worker training program to assist local
36 election officials in providing uniform, secure elections
37 throughout the state. The program shall include, at a minimum,
38 training on all state and federal election laws and procedures.

39 **[From and after July 1, 2008, this section shall read as**
40 **follows:]**

41 23-15-211. (1) There shall be a State Board of Election
42 Commissioners to consist of the Governor, the Secretary of State
43 and the Attorney General, any two (2) of whom may perform the
44 duties required of the board; a board of election commissioners in
45 each county to consist of five (5) persons who are electors in the
46 county in which they are to act; and a registrar in each county
47 who shall be the clerk of the circuit court, unless he shall be
48 shown to be an improper person to register the names of the
49 electors therein.

50 (2) The board of supervisors of each county shall pay
51 members of the county election commission for attending training
52 events a per diem in the amount provided in Section 23-15-153;
53 however, the per diem shall not be paid to an election
54 commissioner for more than six (6) days of training per year and
55 shall only be paid to election commissioners who actually attend
56 and complete a training event and obtain a training certificate.

57 (3) Included in this six (6) days shall be an elections
58 seminar, conducted and sponsored by the Secretary of State.
59 Election commissioners and chairpersons of each political party

60 executive committee, or their designee, shall be required to
61 attend.

62 (4) Each participant shall receive a certificate from the
63 Secretary of State indicating that the named participant has
64 received the elections training seminar instruction and that each
65 participant is fully qualified to conduct an election.

66 (5) The Secretary of State shall develop a single,
67 comprehensive poll worker training program to assist local
68 election officials in providing uniform, secure elections
69 throughout the state. The program shall include, at a minimum,
70 training on all state and federal election laws and procedures.

71 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
72 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
73 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
74 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
75 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
76 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
77 extended.

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