

By: Representatives Bailey, Perkins, Scott,
Clark

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 777

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-19-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS TO PERSONS WHO HAVE SERVED IN AND BEEN
3 HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 99-19-37. (1) Any person who has lost the right of suffrage
9 by reason of a first conviction of a nonviolent crime and such
10 person is not a public official who has been convicted of a crime
11 involving corruption related to public office and such person has
12 not been pardoned therefrom, who * * * served honorably in any
13 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States * * * and shall
14 have received an honorable discharge, or release therefrom, shall
15 by reason of such honorable service, have the full right of
16 suffrage restored * * *.

17 * * *

18 (2) In order to have restored, and to exercise, the right of
19 franchise under the provisions of this section a person affected
20 hereby shall have his discharge, or release, from the Armed Forces
21 of the United States recorded in the office of the chancery clerk
22 of the county in which such person desires to exercise the right
23 of franchise and if such discharge, or release, appears to be an
24 honorable discharge, or release, and shows such person to have
25 served honorably, * * * such person shall have the full right of
26 suffrage restored as though an act had been passed by the
27 Legislature in accordance with Section 253 of the Constitution of

28 the State of Mississippi restoring the right of suffrage to such
29 person.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after its passage.