

By: Representative Robinson (63rd)

To: Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1274

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 21-1-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THAT THOSE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION
3 RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTICE BY FIRST CLASS MAIL 30 DAYS BEFORE THE DATE
4 OF THE HEARING CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 21-1-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 21-1-31. Upon the filing of such petition and upon
10 application therefor by the petitioner, the chancellor shall fix a
11 date certain, either in term time or in vacation, when a hearing
12 on the petition will be held, and notice thereof shall be given in
13 the same manner and for the same length of time as is provided in
14 Section 21-1-15 with regard to the creation of municipal
15 corporations, and all parties interested in, affected by, or being
16 aggrieved by said proposed enlargement or contraction shall have
17 the right to appear at such hearing and present their objection to
18 such proposed enlargement or contraction. In addition to the
19 notice requirements of Section 21-1-15, written notice shall also
20 be given to every person or business owner who pays property taxes
21 in the area that is included in a proposed municipal enlargement.
22 The written notice shall be given to such taxpayers thirty (30)
23 days before the date of the hearing by first class mail at the
24 address given by the taxpayer to the tax assessor. However, in
25 all cases of the enlargement of municipalities where any of the
26 territory proposed to be incorporated is located within three (3)
27 miles of another existing municipality, then such other existing
28 municipality shall be made a party defendant to said petition and

29 shall be served with process in the manner provided by law, which
30 process shall be served at least thirty (30) days prior to the
31 date set for the hearing.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2007.