

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1515

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-23 AND 9-7-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE
2 OF 1972, TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT
3 COURT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
4 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
9 comprised of Hinds County.

10 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
11 four (4) subdistricts in Hinds County as follows:

12 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
13 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
14 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
15 10, 32, 47 and 97.

16 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
17 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
18 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
19 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

20 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
21 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
22 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
23 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63 and 64.

24 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
25 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
26 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram, Cayuga,
27 Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5,

28 Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Old
29 Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

30 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of the following
31 precincts in Hinds County:

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 amended as follows:

34 9-7-25. (1) There shall be five (5) circuit judges for the
35 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
36 from each subdistrict.

37 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
38 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
39 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
40 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
41 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
42 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
43 of the court.

44 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
45 amended as follows:

46 23-15-977. (1) Except as may otherwise be provided by law,
47 all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section 23-15-975
48 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a candidate with
49 the proper officials not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday
50 after the first Monday in May prior to the general election for
51 judicial office and shall pay to the proper officials the
52 following amounts:

53 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of
54 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

55 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the
56 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

57 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,
58 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

59 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
60 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent

61 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
62 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
63 Election Commissioners.

64 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)
65 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
66 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
67 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
68 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
69 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
70 candidate with, and paid the proper assessment to, such clerk.
71 Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days and
72 shall contain all necessary information.

73 **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
74 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
75 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
76 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
77 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
78 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
79 extended.

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