

By: Senator(s) Thomas

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2249

1 AN ACT TO CREATE SECTIONS 47-1-65, 47-5-185 AND 7-3-61,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE CORRECTION FACILITIES TO  
3 IMPLEMENT, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP, A VOTING LAW  
4 CURRICULUM FOR INMATES TO ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE NOT  
5 DISENFRANCHISED BY THEIR CONVICTION TO VOTE; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
9 47-1-65, Mississippi Code of 1972:

10 47-1-65. It is the duty of the board of supervisors of each  
11 county and of the governing authority of each municipality to  
12 provide voter education to every inmate incarcerated for a period  
13 exceeding sixty (60) days in any facility subject to the control  
14 of the board of supervisors or the governing authority of the  
15 municipality, whether by contract or otherwise, according to a  
16 curriculum developed by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section  
17 7-3-61, Mississippi Code of 1972.

18 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section  
19 47-5-185, Mississippi Code of 1972:

20 47-5-185. It is the duty of the commissioner to provide  
21 voter education to every inmate incarcerated for a period  
22 exceeding sixty (60) days in any facility subject to the control  
23 of the Department of Corrections, whether by contract or  
24 otherwise, according to a curriculum developed by the Secretary of  
25 State pursuant to Section 7-3-61, Mississippi Code of 1972.

26 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section  
27 7-3-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

28 7-3-61. It is the duty of the Secretary of State to develop  
29 a curriculum for use by all municipal and county jails, facilities

30 operated by the Department of Corrections, and any private  
31 correctional facility offering services under contract to the  
32 Department of Corrections or any Mississippi county or  
33 municipality to inform inmates of the voting laws of this state  
34 with the purpose of encouraging qualified inmates and qualified  
35 ex-offenders to exercise the right to vote.

36         **SECTION 4.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
37 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
38 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
39 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
40 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
41 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
42 extended.

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