

By: Senator(s) Pickering

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2771

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-9-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE TIMING OF THE TERMS OF COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL  
3 DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY COURT OF JONES COUNTY; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-9-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 9-9-19. (1) A term of court shall be held in the county  
9 courthouse of the county, beginning on the second Monday of each  
10 month and continuing so long as may be necessary; but in counties  
11 where there are two (2) circuit court districts the county court  
12 shall meet alternately in the two (2) districts in the county  
13 courthouse in the same month and in the same district as the board  
14 of supervisors of said county holds its meetings. Provided that  
15 in the County of Jones, a county having two (2) judicial  
16 districts, that a term shall be held in the second judicial  
17 district of said county on the second Monday of each month; and  
18 provided that in the first judicial district a term shall be held  
19 on the fourth Monday of January, the fourth Monday of March, \* \* \*  
20 the fourth Monday of June, the fourth Monday of September and the  
21 first Monday of November. Provided that in the County of Hinds, a  
22 county having two (2) judicial districts, a term shall be held in  
23 the first judicial district on the second Monday of each month and  
24 in the second judicial district on the second Monday of March,  
25 June, September and December, and provided further that, when such  
26 terms are held concurrently, either of the county judges of Hinds  
27 County may be assigned to hold all or any part of such terms in  
28 either of the two (2) judicial districts. Provided, further, that

29 in the County of Bolivar, a county having two (2) judicial  
30 districts, a term shall be held in the first judicial district on  
31 the second Monday of April, August and December, and in the second  
32 judicial district on the second Monday of January, February,  
33 March, May, June, July, September, October and November.  
34 Provided, however, that in the County of Harrison, a county having  
35 two (2) county judges and two (2) judicial districts, that a term  
36 shall be held in each judicial district concurrently each month.  
37 Provided, however, that the judge of the county court for good  
38 cause shown may, by order spread on the minutes of the county  
39 court, designate some place other than the county courthouse for  
40 the holding of such term of the county court as may be designated  
41 in said order. The county judge may call a special term of the  
42 county court upon giving ten (10) days' notice, and such notice  
43 shall be given by posting the same at the front door of the  
44 courthouse in said county and by the publication of said notice  
45 for one insertion in some newspaper of general circulation in the  
46 county.

47 (2) If a county court is established pursuant to an  
48 agreement between two (2) or more counties as provided in Section  
49 9-9-3, the terms thereof shall remain continuously open and shall  
50 not be closed and the judge of such court shall sit in rotation in  
51 the county seat of each county, beginning on Monday of each week  
52 for at least a week in each county in each month.

53 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
54 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
55 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
56 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
57 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
58 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
59 extended.

60 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
61 and after October 1, 2007, or the date it is effectuated under

62 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
63 extended, whichever is later.