

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.