

By: Representative Denny

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 624
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-673, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "ABSENT VOTER" FOR PURPOSES OF ANY
3 ELECTIONS WITHIN THE STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-673, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 23-15-673. (1) For the purposes of this subarticle, the
8 term "absent voter" shall mean and include the following persons
9 if they are absent from their county of residence and are
10 otherwise qualified to vote in Mississippi:

11 (a) Any enlisted or commissioned members, male or
12 female, of the United States Army, or any of its respective
13 components or various divisions thereof; any enlisted or
14 commissioned members, male or female, of the United States Navy,
15 or any of its respective components or various divisions thereof;
16 any enlisted or commissioned members, male or female, of the
17 United States Air Force, or any of its respective components or
18 various divisions thereof; any enlisted or commissioned members,



19 male or female, of the United States Marines, or any of its
20 respective components or various divisions thereof; or any persons
21 in any division of the armed services of the United States, who
22 are citizens of Mississippi;

23 (b) Any member of the Merchant Marine and the American
24 Red Cross who is a citizen of Mississippi;

25 (c) Any disabled war veteran who is a patient in any
26 hospital and who is a citizen of Mississippi;

27 (d) Any civilian attached to and serving outside of the
28 United States with any branch of the Armed Forces or with the
29 Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and who is a citizen of
30 Mississippi;

31 (e) Any trained or certified emergency response
32 provider who is deployed during the time period authorized by law
33 for absentee voting, on election day, or during any state of
34 emergency declared by the President of the United States or any
35 Governor of any state within the United States;

36 (* * *f) Any citizen of Mississippi temporarily
37 residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and
38 the District of Columbia;

39 (* * *g) Any citizen of Mississippi enrolled as a
40 student at * * * the United States Navel Academy, the United
41 States Coast Guard Academy, the United States Merchant Marine
42 Academy, the United States Air Force Academy or the United States
43 Military Academy.



44 (2) The spouse and dependents of any absent voter as set out
45 in paragraphs (a) * * * through (g) of subsection (1) of this
46 section shall also be included in the meaning of absent voter and
47 may register to vote and vote an absentee ballot as provided in
48 this subarticle if also absent from the county of their residence
49 on the date of the election and otherwise qualified to vote in
50 Mississippi.

51 (3) For the purpose of this subarticle, the term "election"
52 shall mean and include the following sets of elections: special
53 and runoff special elections, preferential and general elections,
54 first and second primary elections or general elections without
55 preferential elections, whichever system is applicable.

56 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
57 and after July 1, 2014.

