

By: Representatives Baker, Mims

To: Judiciary A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 703

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-5, 9-5-7, 9-5-9, 9-5-11,
2 9-5-13, 9-5-15, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-25, 9-5-27,
3 9-5-29, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-36, 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-45,
4 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55, 9-5-57 AND 9-5-58,
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR CHANCERY COURT
6 DISTRICTS AND CHANCELLORSHIPS FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND
7 SECTIONS 9-5-3, 9-5-17, 9-5-31, 9-5-37, 9-5-43 AND 9-5-51,
8 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS FOR CHANCERY COURT
9 DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-5, 9-7-7, 9-7-9, 9-7-11,
10 9-7-13, 9-7-14, 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-27,
11 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-34, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-42,
12 9-7-43, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-51, 9-7-53,
13 9-7-54, 9-7-55 AND 9-7-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE
14 FOR CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS AND JUDGESHIPS FOR PURPOSES OF
15 AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-3, 9-7-15, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-29
16 AND 9-7-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS FOR
17 CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-31-5,
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES LEGAL ASSISTANTS FOR
19 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD
20 SECTION 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES
21 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEYS FOR PURPOSES OF
22 AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
23 1972, WHICH PROVIDES VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS FOR DISTRICT
24 ATTORNEYS FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION
25 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE QUALIFYING
26 DEADLINE AND QUALIFYING FEES FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES, FOR THE
27 PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 23-15-297 AND
28 23-15-299, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE THE QUALIFYING
29 FEES AND DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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



31 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
32 amended as follows:

33 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
34 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and
35 comprised of the counties as set forth in the sections which
36 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
37 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
38 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
39 twice a year. From and after January 1, 1995, the dates upon
40 which court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting
41 of a single county shall be the same dates state agencies and
42 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
43 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
44 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
45 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
46 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
47 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
48 such terms if the interest of justice so requires.

49 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
50 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
51 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
52 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
53 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
54 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
55 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms



56 shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery court
57 district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of
58 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
59 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
60 of the Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
61 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the
62 counties within any such chancery court district shall remain
63 unchanged for the next calendar year.

64 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
65 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
66 following criteria:

- 67 (a) The population of the district;
- 68 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 69 (c) The case load of each chancellor in the district;
- 70 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 71 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
72 court personnel of the district; and
- 73 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

74 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
75 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
76 the appropriate:

- 77 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
78 applying the above criteria;
- 79 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
80 data; and



81 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

82 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
83 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
84 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
85 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
86 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
87 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
88 the longest time a member of the Mississippi Bar, shall be the
89 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
90 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
91 of more than one (1) county.

92 (6) The Split Precinct Block List developed in conjunction
93 with Joint Resolution No. 1 and Joint Resolution No. 201, 2012
94 Regular Session, that details the portions of the partial or split
95 precincts that are contained within a district by census block
96 number as such list is utilized to detail partial or split
97 precincts for judicial districts in this chapter is hereby
98 incorporated into and shall be construed to be an integral part of
99 this chapter. Such partial or split precincts contained in the
100 chapter shall be identifiable by an asterisk (*) which shall
101 follow its designation within any electoral district. Any
102 precinct referred to in this chapter shall be as they appear in
103 the November 2010 Census Bureau TIGER Line Shape files.

104 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
105 brought forward as follows:



106 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District shall be comprised
107 of the following counties:

- 108 (a) Alcorn County;
- 109 (b) Itawamba County;
- 110 (c) Lee County;
- 111 (d) Monroe County;
- 112 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 113 (f) Prentiss County;
- 114 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 115 (h) Union County.

116 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
117 brought forward as follows:

118 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
119 First Chancery Court District.

120 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
121 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
122 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
123 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The chancellor to fill
124 Place One shall be a resident of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo
125 County. The chancellors to fill Place Two and Place Three shall
126 be a resident of Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc or Union County.
127 The chancellor to fill Place Four shall be a resident of any
128 county in the district. Election of the four (4) offices of
129 chancellor shall be by election to be held in every county within
130 the First Chancery Court District of Mississippi.



131 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
132 brought forward as follows:

133 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District shall be comprised
134 of the following counties:

- 135 (a) Jasper County;
- 136 (b) Newton County; and
- 137 (c) Scott County.

138 **SECTION 5.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
139 brought forward as follows:

140 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District shall be
141 comprised of the following counties:

- 142 (a) DeSoto County;
- 143 (b) Grenada County;
- 144 (c) Montgomery County;
- 145 (d) Panola County;
- 146 (e) Tate County; and
- 147 (f) Yalobusha County.

148 (2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into
149 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 150 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.
- 151 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
152 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
153 County.

154 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
155 brought forward as follows:



156 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
157 Third Chancery Court District.

158 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
159 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2
160 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
161 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

162 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
163 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
164 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
165 "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be
166 denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three."

167 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
168 brought forward as follows:

169 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District shall be
170 comprised of the following counties:

- 171 (a) Amite County;
- 172 (b) Franklin County;
- 173 (c) Pike County; and
- 174 (d) Walthall County.

175 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
176 amended as follows:

177 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be
178 comprised of Hinds County.

179 (2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
180 the following four (4) subdistricts:



181 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
182 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
183 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
184 10, 32, 47 and 97.

185 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
186 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
187 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
188 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

189 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
190 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
191 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
192 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63, * * * 64 and Jackson State.

193 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
194 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
195 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram 1, Byram 2,
196 Cayuga, Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4,
197 Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St.
198 Thomas, Old Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

199 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
200 brought forward as follows:

201 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
202 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
203 elected from each subdistrict.

204 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
205 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon



206 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
207 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
208 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
209 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
210 the court.

211 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
212 brought forward as follows:

213 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
214 of the following counties:

- 215 (a) Attala County;
- 216 (b) Carroll County;
- 217 (c) Choctaw County;
- 218 (d) Kemper County;
- 219 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 220 (f) Winston County.

221 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
222 brought forward as follows:

223 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
224 Sixth Chancery Court District.

225 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
226 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
227 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
228 "Place Two."

229 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
230 brought forward as follows:



231 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be
232 comprised of the following counties:

- 233 (a) Bolivar County;
- 234 (b) Coahoma County;
- 235 (c) Leflore County;
- 236 (d) Quitman County;
- 237 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 238 (f) Tunica County.

239 (2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
240 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 241 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
242 Coahoma County;
- 243 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
244 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

245 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
246 brought forward as follows:

247 **[Until January 1, 2011, this section shall read as follows:]**

248 9-5-25. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventh
249 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
250 each subdistrict.

251 **[From and after January 1, 2011, this section shall read as**
252 **follows:]**

253 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
254 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
255 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from



256 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
257 appointment and election only as "Place One," and two (2)
258 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
259 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
260 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

261 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
262 brought forward as follows:

263 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District shall be
264 comprised of the following counties:

- 265 (a) Hancock County;
- 266 (b) Harrison County; and
- 267 (c) Stone County.

268 **SECTION 15.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
269 brought forward as follows:

270 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
271 Eighth Chancery Court District.

272 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
273 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
274 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
275 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

276 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
277 powers and duties of said chancellors other than as cast upon them
278 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
279 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
280 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of



281 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
282 court.

283 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
284 amended as follows:

285 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be
286 comprised of the following counties:

- 287 (a) Humphreys County;
- 288 (b) Issaquena County;
- 289 (c) Sharkey County;
- 290 (d) Sunflower County;
- 291 (e) Warren County; and
- 292 (f) Washington County.

293 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
294 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

295 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
296 precincts in the following counties:

297 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North*,
298 Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 South*, Ruleville, Boyer-Linn,
299 Fairview-Hale, Rome, Indianola 3 Northeast*, Sunflower Plantation,
300 Drew and Ruleville North Precincts; and

301 (ii) Washington County: Buster Brown Community
302 Center, Darlove Baptist Church*, Extension Building, * * * Brent
303 Center, * * * American Legion, Leland Rotary Club, Metcalf City
304 Hall, Elks Club, Leland Health Department Clinic, * * * Potter



305 House Church, Greenville Industrial College Precincts and Grace
306 Methodist Church*.

307 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
308 and the following precincts in the following counties:

309 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 North*,
310 Inverness, * * * Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast,
311 Moorhead, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 2 East*, Sunflower 3,
312 Indianola 3 Northeast*, * * * Doddsville Precincts and Sunflower
313 4; and

314 (ii) Washington County: St. James Episcopal
315 Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic,
316 * * * Ward's Recreation Center, * * * Christ Wesleyan Methodist
317 Church, Arcola City Hall, * * * Tampa Drive, Hollandale City Hall,
318 Darlove Baptist Church* * * * and Grace Methodist Church*
319 Precincts.

320 (c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County,
321 Sharkey County and Warren County.

322 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
323 brought forward as follows:

324 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
325 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
326 each subdistrict.

327 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
328 brought forward as follows:



329 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District shall be comprised
330 of the following counties:

- 331 (a) Forrest County;
- 332 (b) Lamar County;
- 333 (c) Marion County;
- 334 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 335 (e) Perry County.

336 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
337 brought forward as follows:

338 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
339 Tenth Chancery Court District.

340 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
341 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
342 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
343 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The chancellor to fill
344 Place One and Place Four shall be a resident of any county in the
345 district. The chancellor to fill Place Two shall be a resident of
346 Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County. The chancellor to
347 fill Place Three shall be a resident of Forrest County. Election
348 of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be by election to be
349 held in every county within the Tenth Chancery Court District of
350 Mississippi.

351 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
352 amended as follows:



353 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be
354 comprised of the following counties:

- 355 (a) Holmes County;
- 356 (b) Leake County;
- 357 (c) Madison County; and
- 358 (d) Yazoo County.

359 (2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
360 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

361 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
362 Yazoo County and Bible Church, Canton Precinct 4, Canton Precinct
363 5, Smith School, Magnolia Heights, Madison County Baptist Family
364 Life Center and Flora Precincts of Madison County;

365 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
366 * * * Cobblestone, Highland Colony Baptist Church, Liberty,
367 Luther Branson School, Cedar Grove, Main Harbor, New Industrial
368 park, North Bay, Ratliff Ferry, Ridgeland First Methodist Church,
369 Ridgeland Tennis Center, SunnyBrook, Tougaloo, Victory Baptist
370 Church, Whispering Lake, Yandell Road, Trace Harbor, Canton
371 Precinct 1, Canton Precinct 2, Canton Precinct 3, Canton
372 Precinct * * * 7, * * * Bear Creek, * * * Madison 1, Madison 2,
373 Madison 3, * * * Gluckstadt, Lorman/Cavalier, Virililia, Cameron,
374 Couparle, Camden, * * * Sharon, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3,
375 Ridgeland 4, Precincts of Madison County.

376 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
377 brought forward as follows:



378 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh
379 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
380 each subdistrict.

381 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
382 brought forward as follows:

383 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District shall be
384 comprised of the following counties:

- 385 (a) Clarke County; and
- 386 (b) Lauderdale County.

387 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
388 brought forward as follows:

389 9-5-40. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
390 Chancery Court District.

391 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
392 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
393 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
394 "Place Two."

395 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
396 brought forward as follows:

397 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District shall be
398 comprised of the following counties:

- 399 (a) Covington County;
- 400 (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- 401 (c) Lawrence County;
- 402 (d) Simpson County; and



403 (e) Smith County.

404 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
405 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and
406 election, the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
407 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
408 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

409 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
410 amended as follows:

411 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
412 comprised of the following counties:

- 413 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 414 (b) Clay County;
- 415 (c) Lowndes County;
- 416 (d) Noxubee County;
- 417 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 418 (f) Webster County.

419 (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
420 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

421 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
422 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
423 West Starkville*, North Adaton, North Longview, Self Creek, Double
424 Springs, Northeast Starkville, East Starkville*, North Starkville
425 2*, Maben, South Starkville, South Longview, Craig Springs,
426 Bradley, Center Grove * * *, North Starkville 3, Bell School
427 House*, Bradley Center Grove, Central Starkville*, Craig Springs,



428 Gillespie Street Center*, Maben, South Adaton, South Longview,
429 South Starkville, and Sturgis Precincts.

430 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
431 precincts in the following counties:

432 (i) Clay County: Vinton, East West Point, Siloam,
433 Central West Point, South West Point and Cedar Bluff Precincts;
434 and

435 (ii) Lowndes County: Columbus High School A,
436 Columbus High School B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High
437 School D, Dowdle Gas Training Center B, Fairgrounds F, Fairgrounds
438 C, Fairgrounds E, Hunt C, Mitchell A, New Hope C, New Hope D, New
439 Hope E, Trinity B, Caledonia, Steens A, Steens B, * * * Sale A,
440 Sale B, Sale C, Rural Hill B, Lee Middle School, * * * Brandon A,
441 Brandon B, Brandon C, Brandon D, Air Base A, Air Base B, Air Base
442 C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Steens C, Rural Hill A, New Hope A,
443 Mitchell A, New Hope B, Union Academy * * * B, Union Academy C,
444 Rural Hill C and University A Precincts.

445 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
446 and the following precincts in the following counties:

447 (i) Clay County: North West Point, Union Star,
448 Tibbee, Cairo, Caradine, * * * West West Point, Pheba and Pine
449 Bluff Precincts;

450 (ii) Lowndes County: * * * Fairgrounds G,
451 Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fair Grounds D, Coleman A, Coleman
452 B, Plum Grove A, * * * Mitchell B, Propst Park Community Hut, Hunt



453 B, Hunt A, Union Academy * * * A, Trinity A, University B, West
454 Lowndes A, Artesia, * * * West Lowndes B, * * * Crawford * * * A,
455 New Hope * * * F, Plum Grove C and Plum Grove B Precincts; and
456 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Osborn, Hickory Grove,
457 Bell Schoolhouse*, Central Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
458 Sessums * * * East Starkville*, North Starkville 2*, Sessums,
459 South Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha, West Starkville* and Oktoc
460 Precincts.

461 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
462 brought forward as follows:

463 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
464 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
465 elected from each subdistrict.

466 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
467 brought forward as follows:

468 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District shall be
469 comprised of the following counties:

- 470 (a) Copiah County; and
471 (b) Lincoln County.

472 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
473 brought forward as follows:

474 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be
475 comprised of the following counties:

- 476 (a) George County;
477 (b) Greene County; and



478 (c) Jackson County.

479 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
480 brought forward as follows:

481 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
482 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

483 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the three
484 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
485 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One,"
486 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

487 **SECTION 30.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
488 amended as follows:

489 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall
490 be comprised of the following counties:

- 491 (a) Adams County;
- 492 (b) Claiborne County;
- 493 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 494 (d) Wilkinson County.

495 (2) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
496 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

497 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Carpenter*,
498 Convention Center*, Claiborne County, Foster Mound, Jefferson
499 County, and the following precincts in Adams County: Maryland*
500 * * *, Palestine, Northside School, Thompson, Pine Ridge,
501 Airport, * * * and Washington* Precincts.



502 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
503 and the following precincts in Adams County: Washington*,
504 Courthouse, By-Pass Fire Station, * * * Bellemont,
505 Carpenter* * * *, Duncan Park, Beau Pre, Kingston, Maryland*,
506 Concord, Liberty Park, Morgantown, Convention Center* and Oakland
507 Precincts.

508 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
509 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
510 each subdistrict.

511 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
512 brought forward as follows:

513 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District shall be
514 comprised of the following counties:

- 515 (a) Benton County;
- 516 (b) Calhoun County;
- 517 (c) Lafayette County;
- 518 (d) Marshall County; and
- 519 (e) Tippah County.

520 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
521 brought forward as follows:

522 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
523 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

524 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
525 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for



526 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
527 "Place Two."

528 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
529 brought forward as follows:

530 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District shall be
531 comprised of the following counties:

532 (a) Jones County; and

533 (b) Wayne County.

534 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
535 brought forward as follows:

536 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
537 comprised of Rankin County.

538 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
539 brought forward as follows:

540 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth
541 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
542 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
543 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
544 "Place One" and "Place Two."

545 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
546 amended as follows:

547 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
548 of circuit court districts severally numbered and comprised of the
549 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
550 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in



551 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
552 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. From and after
553 January 1, 1995, the dates upon which court shall be held in
554 circuit court districts consisting of a single county shall be the
555 same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for
556 business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
557 shall commence and the number of days for which such terms shall
558 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
559 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
560 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
561 A matter in court may extend past such times if the interest of
562 justice so requires.

563 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
564 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
565 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
566 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
567 preceding the calendar year for which such terms of court are to
568 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
569 court shall commence and the number of days for which such terms
570 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
571 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
572 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
573 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all members
574 of The Mississippi Bar. In the event that an order is not timely
575 entered as herein provided, the terms of court for each of the



576 counties within any such circuit court district shall remain
577 unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any
578 order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall,
579 immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of
580 the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the
581 circuit court district.

582 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
583 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
584 criteria:

- 585 (a) The population of the district;
- 586 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 587 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
- 588 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 589 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
590 court personnel of the district; and
- 591 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

592 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
593 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
594 the appropriate:

- 595 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
596 applying the above criteria;
- 597 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
598 data; and
- 599 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.



600 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
601 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
602 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
603 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
604 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
605 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of The
606 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
607 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
608 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county. A circuit
609 court judge shall have the right to assign criminal matters to
610 county court as provided in Section 9-9-21.

611 (6) The Split Precinct Block List developed in conjunction
612 with Joint Resolution No. 1 and Joint Resolution No. 201, 2012
613 Regular Session, that details the portions of the partial or split
614 precincts that are contained within a district by census tract and
615 block number as such list is utilized to detail partial or split
616 precincts for judicial districts in this chapter is hereby
617 incorporated into and shall be construed to be an integral part of
618 this chapter. Such partial or split precincts contained in the
619 chapter shall be identifiable by an asterisk (*) which shall
620 follow its designation within any electoral district. Any
621 precinct referred to in this chapter shall be as they appear in
622 the November 2010 Census Bureau TIGER Line Shape files.

623 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
624 brought forward as follows:



625 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District shall be comprised
626 of the following counties:

- 627 (a) Alcorn County;
- 628 (b) Itawamba County;
- 629 (c) Lee County;
- 630 (d) Monroe County;
- 631 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 632 (f) Prentiss County; and
- 633 (g) Tishomingo County.

634 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
635 brought forward as follows:

636 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
637 Circuit Court District.

638 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the four (4)
639 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
640 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
641 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The judge to fill Place One
642 shall be a resident of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The
643 judges to fill Place Two and Place Three shall be a resident of
644 Itawamba, Lee, Monroe or Pontotoc County. The judge to fill Place
645 Four shall be a resident of any county in the district. Election
646 of the four (4) offices of judge shall be by election to be held
647 in every county within the First Circuit Court District.

648 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
649 brought forward as follows:



650 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District shall be comprised
651 of the following counties:

- 652 (a) Hancock County;
- 653 (b) Harrison County; and
- 654 (c) Stone County.

655 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
656 brought forward as follows:

657 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
658 Second Circuit Court District.

659 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election the four
660 (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
661 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
662 Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

663 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
664 brought forward as follows:

665 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District shall be comprised
666 of the following counties:

- 667 (a) Benton County;
- 668 (b) Calhoun County;
- 669 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 670 (d) Lafayette County;
- 671 (e) Marshall County;
- 672 (f) Tippah County; and
- 673 (g) Union County.



674 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
675 brought forward as follows:

676 9-7-14. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
677 Third Circuit Court District.

678 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
679 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
680 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
681 Two" and "Place Three." The judge to fill "Place One" shall be a
682 resident of Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lafayette or Union Counties. The
683 judge to fill "Place Two" shall be a resident of Benton, Marshall
684 or Tippah County. The judge to fill "Place Three" shall be a
685 resident of any county in the district.

686 **SECTION 43.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
687 amended as follows:

688 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
689 composed of the following counties:

- 690 (a) Leflore County;
691 (b) Sunflower County; and
692 (c) Washington County.

693 (2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
694 four (4) subdistricts as follows:

695 (a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of the following
696 precincts in the following counties:

- 697 (i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood*, Minter
698 City, North Greenwood, Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West



699 Greenwood*, Mississippi Valley State University and Southeast
700 Greenwood Precincts; and

701 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
702 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
703 Ruleville North Precincts.

704 (b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of the following
705 precincts in the following counties:

706 (i) Sunflower County: Fairview-Hale*, Indianola
707 * * * 2 East*, Sunflower 3, Sunflower 4, Indianola Southeast,
708 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South* and Indianola 3 Northeast
709 Precincts; and

710 (ii) Washington County: Buster Brown Community
711 Center*, Extension Building*, * * * Darlove Baptist Church*,
712 American Legion, Metcalfe City Hall, Elks Club, Grace Methodist
713 Church, St. James Episcopal Church*, Leland Health Department
714 Clinic, * * * Leland Rotary Club, Potter House Church* and
715 Greenville Industrial College Precincts.

716 (c) Subdistrict 4-3 shall consist of the following
717 precincts in the following counties:

718 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood * * *, West
719 Greenwood*, Central Greenwood*, North Itta Bena, South Itta Bena,
720 Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City/Swiftown and
721 South Greenwood Precincts;



722 (ii) Sunflower County: Indianola 3 South*,
723 Moorhead, Inverness, Indianola 2 West and Indianola 2 East*
724 Precincts; and

725 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall*,
726 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church* and * * * Precincts.

727 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
728 precincts in Washington County: Potter House Church*, St. James
729 Episcopal Church*, Tampa Drive, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen
730 Allan Health Clinic, * * * Arcola City Hall*, Ward's Recreation
731 Center, Buster Brown Community Center*, * * * Christ Wesleyan
732 Methodist Church, Extension Building*, Brent Center, * * *
733 Greenville Industrial College* and Grace Methodist Church
734 Precincts.

735 (3) The local contributions required for the maintenance of
736 the Fourth Circuit Court District shall be paid on a pro rata
737 basis each by Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties.

738 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
739 brought forward as follows:

740 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
741 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
742 elected from each subdistrict.

743 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
744 brought forward as follows:

745 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
746 of the following counties:



- 747 (a) Attala County;
748 (b) Carroll County;
749 (c) Choctaw County;
750 (d) Grenada County;
751 (e) Montgomery County;
752 (f) Webster County; and
753 (g) Winston County.

754 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
755 brought forward as follows:

756 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
757 Circuit Court District.

758 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
759 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
760 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
761 "Place Two."

762 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
763 amended as follows:

764 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be
765 comprised of the following counties:

- 766 (a) Adams County;
767 (b) Amite County;
768 (c) Franklin County; and
769 (d) Wilkinson County.

770 (2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
771 two (2) subdistricts as follows:



772 (a) Subdistrict 6-1 shall consist of Wilkinson County
773 and the following precincts in the following counties:

774 (i) Adams County: Courthouse*, By-Pass Fire
775 Station, * * * Duncan Park*, Carpenter No. 1, Concord*,
776 Maryland* * * *, Foster Mound, Washington*, Northside School,
777 Thompson, Pine Ridge * * * and Airport * * * Precincts; and

778 (ii) Amite County: Gloster*, Ariel, East
779 Gloster*, Homochitto, Crosby, East Centreville, South Liberty,
780 Street and Berwick Precincts.

781 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County,
782 all of Amite County * * * excluding those precincts listed in
783 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) and the
784 following precincts in Adams County: Bellemont, Duncan Park*,
785 Beau Pre, Kingston, Liberty Park, Courthouse*, Maryland*,
786 Palestine, Morgantown, Oakland, Concord*, Convention Center and
787 Washington* Precincts.

788 (3) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the Sixth
789 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
790 subdistrict.

791 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
792 amended as follows:

793 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
794 comprised of Hinds County.

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



797 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
798 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 33, 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46,
799 78, 79, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 92, 93, 96, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,
800 10, 32, 47 and 97.

801 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
802 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43,
803 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30
804 and 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin Precincts.

805 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
806 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 21, 22, 25, 31, 86, 58, 59,
807 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 89, 24, 26, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62,
808 18, 19, 20, 50, 51, 52, 53, 63, Jackson State and 64.

809 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
810 precincts in Hinds County: Precincts 94, 95, 87, 88, 90 and 91,
811 Bolton, Edwards, Pine Haven, Utica 1, Utica 2, Byram 1, Byram 2,
812 Cayuga, Learned, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4,
813 Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St.
814 Thomas, Old Byram, Terry, Chapel Hill and Dry Grove Precincts.

815 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
816 brought forward as follows:

817 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
818 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
819 from each subdistrict.

820 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
821 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them



822 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
823 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
824 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
825 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
826 of the court.

827 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
828 brought forward as follows:

829 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District shall be
830 comprised of the following counties:

- 831 (a) Leake County;
- 832 (b) Neshoba County;
- 833 (c) Newton County; and
- 834 (d) Scott County.

835 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
836 Court District. The initial term for the second judgeship created
837 under this section shall begin on the effective date of Laws,
838 1997, Ch. 378, and shall end at the same time as for circuit
839 judges generally.

840 (3) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
841 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
842 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
843 "Place Two."

844 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
845 amended as follows:



846 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be
847 comprised of the following counties:

- 848 (a) Issaquena County;
- 849 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 850 (c) Warren County.

851 (2) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
852 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

853 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
854 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61
855 Store*, St. Aloysius, Kings*, Cedar Grove*, * * * Number 7 Fire
856 Station*, Auditorium, Brunswick, Vicksburg Junior High School* and
857 American Legion Precincts.

858 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following
859 precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Cedar Grove*,
860 Kings*, Oak Ridge, Bovina, Culkin, Redwood, Number 7 Firestation*,
861 Jett, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Yokena, Plumbers Hall, Y.M.C.A.,
862 Vicksburg Junior High School*, Moose Lodge and Tingleville
863 Precincts.

864 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-7-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
865 brought forward as follows:

866 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
867 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
868 subdistrict.

869 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
870 brought forward as follows:



871 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District shall be comprised
872 of the following counties:

- 873 (a) Clarke County;
- 874 (b) Kemper County;
- 875 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 876 (d) Wayne County.

877 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
878 brought forward as follows:

879 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
880 Circuit Court District.

881 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
882 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
883 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
884 "Place Two."

885 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
886 amended as follows:

887 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be
888 comprised of the following counties:

- 889 (a) Bolivar County;
- 890 (b) Coahoma County;
- 891 (c) Quitman County; and
- 892 (d) Tunica County.

893 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
894 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:



895 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of the following
896 precincts from the following counties:

897 (i) Bolivar County: Gunnison, * * * Beulah,
898 Choctaw, East Cleveland*, Pace, Benoit, Scott, East-Central
899 Cleveland*, Cleveland Courthouse, East Rosedale, Northwest
900 Cleveland*, * * * West Cleveland, South Cleveland*, West Central
901 Cleveland, Longshot, North Cleveland, West Rosedale, Skene, Shaw,
902 Boyle and Stringtown Precincts; and

903 (ii) Coahoma County: Farrell*, Sherard*,
904 Clarksdale 2-4*, Rena Lara, Clarksdale 5-4* and Bobo Precincts.

905 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of the following
906 precincts from the following counties:

907 (i) Bolivar County: Cleveland East Gate, East
908 Central Cleveland*, Alligator-Duncan, Shelby, Northwest
909 Cleveland*, Renova, South Cleveland*, Mound Bayou, Winstonville,
910 Merigold, and East Cleveland* Precincts;

911 (ii) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 4-2, * * *
912 Clarksdale 1-4*, Clarksdale 3-4, Clarksdale 4-3, Dublin,
913 Clarksdale 3-3, Cagle Crossing and Roundway Precincts; and

914 (iii) Quitman County: * * * Northwest
915 Marks, * * * Southwest Marks, Belen*, * * * District 3 South*,
916 West Lambert, Lambert, and * * * Precincts.

917 (c) Subdistricts 11-3 shall consist of Tunica County
918 and the following precincts in the following counties:



919 (i) Coahoma County: Lula, Farrell*, Friars Point,
920 Lyons, Clarksdale 1-4*, * * * Clarksdale 2-4*, * * * Clarksdale
921 5-4*, * * * Sherard*, Coahoma and Jonestown Precincts; and

922 (ii) Quitman County: District 3 North, District 3
923 South*, Crenshaw, Sledge, * * * Darling, Belen*, * * * and Crowder
924 Precincts.

925 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
926 brought forward as follows:

927 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
928 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
929 subdistrict.

930 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
931 brought forward as follows:

932 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District shall be
933 comprised of the following counties:

- 934 (a) Forrest County; and
935 (b) Perry County.

936 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
937 brought forward as follows:

938 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District shall be
939 comprised of the following counties:

- 940 (a) Covington County;
941 (b) Jasper County;
942 (c) Simpson County; and
943 (d) Smith County.



944 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
945 brought forward as follows:

946 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District shall be
947 comprised of the following counties:

- 948 (a) Lincoln County;
- 949 (b) Pike County; and
- 950 (c) Walthall County.

951 (2) (a) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth
952 Circuit Court District.

953 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the two
954 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
955 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
956 "Place Two."

957 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
958 brought forward as follows:

959 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall be
960 comprised of the following counties:

- 961 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 962 (b) Lamar County;
- 963 (c) Lawrence County;
- 964 (d) Marion County; and
- 965 (e) Pearl River County.

966 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
967 brought forward as follows:



968 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
969 Circuit Court District.

970 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
971 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
972 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
973 "Place Two."

974 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
975 brought forward as follows:

976 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District shall be
977 comprised of the following counties:

- 978 (a) Clay County;
- 979 (b) Lowndes County;
- 980 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 981 (d) Oktibbeha County.

982 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
983 brought forward as follows:

984 9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
985 Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

986 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
987 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
988 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
989 Two" and "Place Three." The judge to fill Place One shall be a
990 resident of Lowndes County. The judge to fill Place Two shall be
991 a resident of Oktibbeha County. The judge to fill Place Three
992 shall be a resident of either Clay or Noxubee County. Election of



993 the three (3) offices of judge shall be by election to be held in
994 every county within the Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

995 **SECTION 64.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
996 brought forward as follows:

997 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
998 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

999 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of DeSoto County;
1000 and

1001 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Panola County,
1002 Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

1003 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1004 brought forward as follows:

1005 9-7-46. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
1006 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

1007 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the four
1008 (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and one (1) judge
1009 shall be elected from Subdistrict 17-1, two (2) judges shall be
1010 elected from Subdistrict 17-2, and one (1) judge shall be elected
1011 from every county in the district. The two (2) judgeships in
1012 Subdistrict 17-2 shall be denominated as "Place One" and "Place
1013 Two," the judgeship in Subdistrict 17-1 shall be denominated as
1014 "Place Three," and the at-large judgeship shall be denominated as
1015 "Place Four."

1016 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1017 brought forward as follows:



1018 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
1019 County.

1020 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1021 brought forward as follows:

1022 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall be
1023 comprised of the following counties:

- 1024 (a) George County;
- 1025 (b) Greene County; and
- 1026 (c) Jackson County.

1027 (2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of
1028 the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to
1029 George and Greene Counties, the amount of their present local
1030 contribution in their present respective circuit court districts,
1031 and any excess shall be paid by Jackson County.

1032 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1033 brought forward as follows:

1034 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) circuit judges for the
1035 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. For the purposes of
1036 appointment and election, the three (3) judgeships shall be
1037 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1038 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

1039 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
1040 District may divide the court of any county within the district
1041 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of



1042 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
1043 court.

1044 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1045 brought forward as follows:

1046 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District shall be
1047 comprised of the following counties:

- 1048 (a) Madison County; and
- 1049 (b) Rankin County.

1050 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1051 brought forward as follows:

1052 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
1053 Circuit Court District.

1054 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
1055 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1056 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1057 "Place Two."

1058 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1059 brought forward as follows:

1060 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be
1061 comprised of the following counties:

- 1062 (a) Holmes County;
- 1063 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 1064 (c) Yazoo County.

1065 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1066 brought forward as follows:



1067 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall be
1068 comprised of the following counties:

- 1069 (a) Claiborne County;
- 1070 (b) Covich County; and
- 1071 (c) Jefferson County.

1072 **SECTION 73.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1073 brought forward as follows:

1074 **[Through June 30, 2015, this section shall read as follows:]**

1075 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1076 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1077 districts:

1078 (a) First Circuit Court District..... nine (9)
1079 legal assistants.

1080 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1081 legal assistants.

1082 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1083 legal assistants.

1084 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1085 legal assistants.

1086 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1087 legal assistants.

1088 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1089 legal assistants.

1090 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....eleven (11)
1091 legal assistants.



1092 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1093 legal assistants.

1094 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1095 legal assistants.

1096 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1097 legal assistants.

1098 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1099 legal assistants.

1100 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1101 legal assistants.

1102 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1103 legal assistants.

1104 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1105 legal assistants.

1106 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1107 legal assistants.

1108 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1109 legal assistants.

1110 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1111 legal assistants.

1112 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1113 legal assistants.

1114 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1115 legal assistants.

1116 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... five (5)



1117 legal assistants.

1118 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... three (3)

1119 legal assistants.

1120 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)

1121 legal assistants.

1122 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1123 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1124 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1125 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1126 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1127 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1128 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1129 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1130 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1131 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1132 district pursuant to this subsection:

1133 (a) First Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1134 legal assistants.

1135 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1136 legal assistants.

1137 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1138 legal assistants.

1139 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1140 legal assistants.

1141 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... two (2)



1142 legal assistants.

1143 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1144 legal assistants.

1145 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1146 legal assistants.

1147 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1148 legal assistants.

1149 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1150 legal assistants.

1151 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1152 legal assistants.

1153 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1154 legal assistants.

1155 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1156 legal assistants.

1157 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1158 legal assistants.

1159 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1160 legal assistants.

1161 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1162 legal assistants.

1163 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1164 legal assistants.

1165 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1166 legal assistants.



1167 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1168 legal assistants.

1169 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1170 legal assistants.

1171 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1172 legal assistants.

1173 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1174 legal assistants.

1175 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1176 legal assistants.

1177 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1178 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1179 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1180 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1181 this section.

1182 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1183 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1184 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1185 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1186 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1187 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1188 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1189 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1190 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1191 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal



1192 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1193 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1194 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1195 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1196 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1197 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1198 counties comprising the circuit court district, and said funds
1199 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1200 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1201 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
1202 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1203 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1204 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1205 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1206 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1207 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1208 Office.

1209 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1210 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1211 for such legal assistants.

1212 **[From and after July 1, 2015, this section shall read as**
1213 **follows:]**

1214 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1215 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1216 districts:



1217 (a) First Circuit Court District..... nine (9)
1218 legal assistants.

1219 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1220 legal assistants.

1221 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1222 legal assistants.

1223 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1224 legal assistants.

1225 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1226 legal assistants.

1227 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1228 legal assistants.

1229 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....eleven (11)
1230 legal assistants.

1231 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1232 legal assistants.

1233 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1234 legal assistants.

1235 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1236 legal assistants.

1237 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1238 legal assistants.

1239 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1240 legal assistants.

1241 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)



1242 legal assistants.

1243 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)

1244 legal assistants.

1245 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)

1246 legal assistants.

1247 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District five (5)

1248 legal assistants.

1249 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)

1250 legal assistants.

1251 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)

1252 legal assistants.

1253 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)

1254 legal assistants.

1255 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... six (6)

1256 legal assistants.

1257 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... three (3)

1258 legal assistants.

1259 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)

1260 legal assistants.

1261 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant

1262 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of

1263 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following

1264 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the

1265 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe

1266 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following



1267 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1268 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1269 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1270 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1271 district pursuant to this subsection:

1272 (a) First Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1273 legal assistants.

1274 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1275 legal assistants.

1276 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1277 legal assistants.

1278 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1279 legal assistants.

1280 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1281 legal assistants.

1282 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1283 legal assistants.

1284 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1285 legal assistants.

1286 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1287 legal assistants.

1288 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1289 legal assistants.

1290 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1291 legal assistants.



1292 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1293 legal assistants.
1294 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1295 legal assistants.
1296 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1297 legal assistants.
1298 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1299 legal assistants.
1300 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1301 legal assistants.
1302 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1303 legal assistants.
1304 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1305 legal assistants.
1306 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1307 legal assistants.
1308 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1309 legal assistants.
1310 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1311 legal assistants.
1312 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1313 legal assistants.
1314 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... two (2)
1315 legal assistants.



1316 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1317 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1318 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1319 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1320 this section.

1321 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1322 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1323 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1324 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1325 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1326 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1327 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1328 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1329 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1330 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1331 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1332 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1333 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1334 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1335 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1336 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1337 counties comprising the circuit court district, and said funds
1338 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1339 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1340 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of



1341 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1342 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1343 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1344 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1345 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1346 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1347 Office.

1348 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1349 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1350 for such legal assistants.

1351 **SECTION 74.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1352 brought forward as follows:

1353 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
1354 criminal investigator.

1355 (2) The district attorneys of the Third, Fifth, Ninth,
1356 Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth,
1357 Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Twentieth Circuit Court Districts may
1358 appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for a
1359 total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

1360 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Fourth,
1361 Seventh and Nineteenth Circuit Court Districts may appoint two (2)
1362 additional full-time criminal investigators for a total of three
1363 (3) full-time criminal investigators.



1364 (4) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1365 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1366 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1367 (5) The full and complete compensation for all public duties
1368 rendered by said criminal investigators shall be not more than
1369 Fifty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$59,500.00) per annum,
1370 to be determined at the discretion of the district attorney based
1371 upon the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal
1372 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid
1373 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary
1374 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law
1375 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other
1376 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal
1377 assistant to a district attorney.

1378 (6) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
1379 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
1380 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of
1381 1972. The total expenses associated with attendance by criminal
1382 investigators at the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program
1383 shall be paid out of the funds of the appropriate district
1384 attorney.

1385 (7) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1386 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of
1387 funding for such criminal investigators.



1388 **SECTION 75.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1389 brought forward as follows:

1390 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal
1391 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,
1392 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state
1393 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1394 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to
1395 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a
1396 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be
1397 a state employee.

1398 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1399 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1400 coordinator subject to the approval of and upon the order of the
1401 senior circuit court judge of the district for a total of two (2)
1402 victim assistance coordinators.

1403 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1404 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1405 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1406 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1407 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1408 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1409 fulfilling that duty.

1410 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1411 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1412 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties



1413 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1414 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1415 court judge.

1416 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1417 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1418 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1419 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of
1420 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1421 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1422 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1423 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1424 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1425 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1426 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1427 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1428 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1429 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1430 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1431 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1432 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1433 municipality.

1434 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1435 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1436 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1437 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and



1438 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
1439 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
1440 operation of the victim assistance program.

1441 **SECTION 76.** Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1442 brought forward as follows:

1443 23-15-977. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this
1444 section, all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section
1445 23-15-975 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a
1446 candidate with the proper officials not later than 5:00 p.m. on
1447 the first Friday after the first Monday in May prior to the
1448 general election for judicial office and shall pay to the proper
1449 officials the following amounts:

1450 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of
1451 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

1452 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the
1453 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

1454 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,
1455 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

1456 Candidates for judicial office may not file their intent to
1457 be a candidate and pay the proper assessment before January 1 of
1458 the year in which the election for the judicial office is held.

1459 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
1460 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
1461 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made



1462 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
1463 Election Commissioners.

1464 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)
1465 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
1466 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
1467 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
1468 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
1469 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
1470 candidate with, and paid the proper assessment to, such clerk.
1471 Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days and
1472 shall contain all necessary information.

1473 (4) If only one (1) person files his intent to be a
1474 candidate for a judicial office and that person subsequently dies,
1475 resigns or is otherwise disqualified from holding the judicial
1476 office after the deadline provided for in subsection (1) of this
1477 section but more than seventy (70) days before the date of the
1478 general election, the Governor, upon notification of the death,
1479 resignation or disqualification of the person, shall issue a
1480 proclamation authorizing candidates to file their intent to be a
1481 candidate for that judicial office for a period of not less than
1482 seven (7) nor more than ten (10) days from the date of the
1483 proclamation.

1484 (5) If only one (1) person qualifies as a candidate for a
1485 judicial office and that person subsequently dies, resigns or is
1486 otherwise disqualified from holding the judicial office within



1487 seventy (70) days before the date of the general election, the
1488 judicial office shall be considered vacant for the new term and
1489 the vacancy shall be filled as provided in by law.

1490 **SECTION 77.** Section 23-15-297, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1491 brought forward as follows:

1492 23-15-297. All candidates upon entering the race for party
1493 nominations for office shall first pay to the proper officer as
1494 provided for in Section 23-15-299 for each primary election the
1495 following amounts:

1496 (a) Candidates for Governor not to exceed Three Hundred
1497 Dollars (\$300.00).

1498 (b) Candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney
1499 General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public
1500 Accounts, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture
1501 and Commerce, State Highway Commissioner and State Public Service
1502 Commissioner, not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

1503 (c) Candidates for district attorney, not to exceed One
1504 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

1505 (d) Candidates for State Senator, State Representative,
1506 sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, tax assessor, tax
1507 collector, county attorney, county superintendent of education and
1508 board of supervisors, not to exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

1509 (e) Candidates for county surveyor, county coroner,
1510 justice court judge and constable, not to exceed Ten Dollars
1511 (\$10.00).



1512 (f) Candidates for United States Senator, not to exceed
1513 Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

1514 (g) Candidates for United States Representative, not to
1515 exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

1516 **SECTION 78.** Section 23-15-299, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1517 brought forward as follows:

1518 23-15-299. (1) (a) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs
1519 (a), (b) and (c) of Section 23-15-297 and assessments made
1520 pursuant to paragraph (d) of Section 23-15-297 for legislative
1521 offices shall be paid by each candidate to the secretary of the
1522 state executive committee with which the candidate is affiliated
1523 by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in which the primary election
1524 for the office is held or on the date of the qualifying deadline
1525 provided by statute for the office, whichever is earlier; however,
1526 no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in
1527 which the primary election for the office is held.

1528 (b) If the 2010 census redistricting information that
1529 is provided to the state in accordance with Public Law 94-171 has
1530 not been received from the United States Secretary of Commerce by
1531 the Governor of the State of Mississippi by January 1, 2011, then
1532 the qualifying deadline for legislative offices shall be changed
1533 for the year 2011 only, as follows: Assessments made pursuant to
1534 paragraph (d) of Section 23-15-297 for legislative offices shall
1535 be paid by each candidate to the secretary of the state executive
1536 committee with which the candidate is affiliated by 5:00 p.m. on



1537 June 1, 2011. This paragraph (b) shall stand repealed on July 1,
1538 2012; however, no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of
1539 the year in which the election for the office is held.

1540 (2) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e) of
1541 Section 23-15-297, other than assessments made for legislative
1542 offices, shall be paid by each candidate to the circuit clerk of
1543 such candidate's county of residence by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of
1544 the year in which the primary election for the office is held or
1545 on the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the
1546 office, whichever is earlier; however, no such assessments may be
1547 paid before January 1 of the year in which the election for the
1548 office is held. The circuit clerk shall forward the fee and all
1549 necessary information to the secretary of the proper county
1550 executive committee within two (2) business days.

1551 (3) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of
1552 Section 23-15-297 must be paid by each candidate to the secretary
1553 of the state executive committee with which the candidate is
1554 affiliated by 5:00 p.m. sixty (60) days before the presidential
1555 preference primary in years in which a presidential preference
1556 primary is held; however, no such assessments may be paid before
1557 January 1 of the year in which the primary election for the office
1558 is held. Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of
1559 Section 23-15-297, in years when a presidential preference primary
1560 is not being held, shall be paid by each candidate to the
1561 secretary of the state executive committee with which the



1562 candidate is affiliated by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in
1563 which the primary election for the office is held; however, no
1564 such assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in which
1565 the primary election for the office is held.

1566 (4) (a) The fees paid pursuant to subsections (1), (2) and
1567 (3) of this section shall be accompanied by a written statement
1568 containing the name and address of the candidate, the party with
1569 which he or she is affiliated and the office for which he or she
1570 is a candidate.

1571 (b) The state executive committee shall transmit to the
1572 Secretary of State a copy of the written statements accompanying
1573 the fees paid pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section.
1574 All copies must be received by the Office of the Secretary of
1575 State by not later than 6:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying
1576 deadline; provided, however, the failure of the Office of the
1577 Secretary of State to receive such copies by 6:00 p.m. on the date
1578 of the qualifying deadline shall not affect the qualification of a
1579 person who pays the required fee and files the required statement
1580 by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline. The name of
1581 any person who pays the required fee and files the required
1582 statement after 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline
1583 shall not be placed on the primary election ballot.

1584 (5) The secretary or circuit clerk to whom such payments are
1585 made shall promptly receipt for same stating the office for which
1586 such candidate making payment is running and the political party



1587 with which he or she is affiliated, and he or she shall keep an
1588 itemized account in detail showing the exact time and date of the
1589 receipt of each payment received by him or her and, where
1590 applicable, the date of the postmark on the envelope containing
1591 the fee and from whom, and for what office the party paying same
1592 is a candidate.

1593 (6) The secretaries of the proper executive committee shall
1594 hold said funds to be finally disposed of by order of their
1595 respective executive committees. Such funds may be used or
1596 disbursed by the executive committee receiving same to pay all
1597 necessary traveling or other necessary expenses of the members of
1598 the executive committee incurred in discharging their duties as
1599 committeemen, and of their secretary and may pay the secretary
1600 such salary as may be reasonable.

1601 (7) Upon receipt of the proper fee and all necessary
1602 information, the proper executive committee shall then determine
1603 whether each candidate is a qualified elector of the state, state
1604 district, county or county district which they seek to serve, and
1605 whether each candidate meets all other qualifications to hold the
1606 office he is seeking or presents absolute proof that he will,
1607 subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on or before
1608 the date of the general or special election at which he could be
1609 elected to office. The executive committee shall determine
1610 whether the candidate has taken the steps necessary to qualify for
1611 more than one (1) office at the election. The committee also



1612 shall determine whether any candidate has been convicted of any
1613 felony in a court of this state, or has been convicted on or after
1614 December 8, 1992, of any offense in another state which is a
1615 felony under the laws of this state, or has been convicted of any
1616 felony in a federal court on or after December 8, 1992. Excepted
1617 from the above are convictions of manslaughter and violations of
1618 the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the
1619 tax laws of this state unless the offense also involved misuse or
1620 abuse of his office or money coming into his hands by virtue of
1621 his office. If the proper executive committee finds that a
1622 candidate either (a) is not a qualified elector, (b) does not meet
1623 all qualifications to hold the office he seeks and fails to
1624 provide absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that he will
1625 meet the qualifications on or before the date of the general or
1626 special election at which he could be elected, or (c) has been
1627 convicted of a felony as described in this subsection, and not
1628 pardoned, then the name of such candidate shall not be placed upon
1629 the ballot. If the proper executive committee determines that the
1630 candidate has taken the steps necessary to qualify for more than
1631 one (1) office at the election, the action required by Section
1632 23-15-905, shall be taken.

1633 Where there is but one (1) candidate for each office
1634 contested at the primary election, the proper executive committee
1635 when the time has expired within which the names of candidates
1636 shall be furnished shall declare such candidates the nominees.



1637 (8) No candidate may qualify by filing the information
1638 required by this section by using the Internet.

1639 **SECTION 79.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1640 and after July 1, 2015, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2015.

