

By: Representatives Baker, Mims

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 703
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 COMPLY WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE TO REDISTRIBUTE THE TRIAL
3 COURTS FOLLOWING THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS; TO AMEND SECTIONS
4 9-5-5, 9-5-7, 9-5-9 AND 9-5-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE
5 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE
6 OF 1972, TO ADD A CHANCELLOR TO THE FOURTH CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO
7 AMEND SECTION 9-5-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE
8 PRECINCTS IN THE FIFTH CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS
9 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-27 AND 9-5-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
10 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-31,
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN THE NINTH
12 CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-35 AND 9-5-36,
13 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND
14 SECTION 9-5-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN
15 THE ELEVENTH CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-38,
16 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ADD A CHANCELLOR TO THE ELEVENTH
17 CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-39, 9-5-40 AND 9-5-41,
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND
19 SECTION 9-5-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN
20 THE FOURTEENTH CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-47, 9-5-49
21 AND 9-5-50, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL
22 CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
23 UPDATE PRECINCTS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND
24 SECTIONS 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55 AND 9-5-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
25 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-58,
26 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ADD A CHANCELLOR TO THE TWENTIETH
27 CHANCERY DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
28 1972, TO COMPLY WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE TO REDISTRIBUTE THE
29 TRIAL COURTS FOLLOWING THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS; TO AMEND
30 SECTIONS 9-7-5, 9-7-7, 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-14, 9-7-19 AND
31 9-7-20, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS;
32 TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE
33 PRECINCTS IN THE SIXTH CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-23,
34 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN THE SEVENTH



35 CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
36 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-29,
37 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN THE NINTH CIRCUIT
38 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-31 AND 9-7-32, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
39 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-33,
40 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCTS IN THE ELEVENTH
41 CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
42 1972, TO ADD A JUDGE TO THE TWELFTH CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND
43 SECTION 9-7-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ADD A JUDGE TO THE
44 THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-39 AND 9-7-41,
45 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND
46 SECTION 9-7-42, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ADD A JUDGE TO THE
47 FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-43, 9-7-44,
48 9-7-45, 9-7-49, 9-7-51 AND 9-7-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
49 MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-54, MISSISSIPPI
50 CODE OF 1972, TO ADD A JUDGE TO THE TWENTIETH CIRCUIT DISTRICT; TO
51 AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-55 AND 9-7-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
52 MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; TO AMEND SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI
53 CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW AN ADDITIONAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR
54 IN THE FOURTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE THAT REVISED
55 PRECINCTS ARE FROM THE 2010 CENSUS; TO REQUIRE THE STANDING JOINT
56 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT TO ASSIST THE COUNTIES IN
57 IDENTIFYING THE BOUNDARIES OF SUBDISTRICTS; TO PROVIDE FOR A
58 SHORTENED INITIAL TERM OF OFFICE FOR NEW JUDGESHIPS CREATED UNDER
59 THIS ACT; TO SPECIFY QUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR NEW
60 JUDGESHIPS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

61 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Legislature under
62 Section 152 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 to divide the
63 state into an appropriate number of circuit and chancery court
64 districts; and

65 WHEREAS, the Legislature has investigated the state of the
66 trial courts and the trial court districts and has considered the
67 needs of the state according to all the criteria imposed by the
68 Constitution and by general law; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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



72 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
73 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and * * *
74 composed of the counties as set forth in the sections which
75 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
76 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
77 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
78 twice a year. * * * Court shall be held in chancery court
79 districts consisting of a single county * * * on the same dates
80 state agencies and political subdivisions are open for business
81 excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms shall
82 commence and the number of days for which terms shall continue in
83 chancery court districts consisting of more than one (1) county
84 shall be set by order of the chancellor in accordance with the
85 provisions of subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court
86 may extend past * * * a term if the interest of justice so
87 requires.

88 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
89 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
90 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
91 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
92 preceding the calendar year for which * * * the terms of court are
93 to become effective. Notice of the dates upon which * * * terms
94 of court shall commence and the number of days for which * * * the
95 terms shall continue in each of the counties within a chancery
96 court district shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk



97 of each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
98 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all
99 Mississippi Bar members. * * * If an order is not timely
100 entered * * *, the terms of court for each of the counties
101 within * * * the chancery court district shall remain unchanged
102 for the next calendar year.

103 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
104 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
105 following criteria:

- 106 (a) The population of the district;
- 107 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 108 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;
- 109 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 110 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
111 court personnel of the district; and
- 112 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

113 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
114 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
115 the appropriate:

- 116 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
117 applying the above criteria;
- 118 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
119 data; and
- 120 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.



121 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
122 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
123 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
124 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
125 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
126 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
127 the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar * * * shall be
128 the senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right
129 to assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts
130 consisting of more than one (1) county.

131 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
132 amended as follows:

133 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District * * * is composed
134 of the following counties:

- 135 (a) Alcorn County;
- 136 (b) Itawamba County;
- 137 (c) Lee County;
- 138 (d) Monroe County;
- 139 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 140 (f) Prentiss County;
- 141 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 142 (h) Union County.

143 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
144 amended as follows:



145 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
146 First Chancery Court District.

147 (2) * * * The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
148 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
149 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
150 The chancellor to fill Place One * * * must be a resident of
151 Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The chancellors to fill
152 Place Two and Place Three * * * must reside in Itawamba, Lee,
153 Monroe, Pontotoc or Union County. The chancellor to fill Place
154 Four * * * may be a resident of any county in the district.
155 Election of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be by
156 election to be held in every county within the First Chancery
157 Court District * * *.

158 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
159 amended as follows:

160 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District * * * is composed
161 of the following counties:

- 162 (a) Jasper County;
163 (b) Newton County; and
164 (c) Scott County.

165 **SECTION 5.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
166 amended as follows:

167 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District * * * is
168 composed of the following counties:

- 169 (a) DeSoto County;



- 170 (b) Grenada County;
171 (c) Montgomery County;
172 (d) Panola County;
173 (e) Tate County; and
174 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

- 177 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.
178 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
179 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
180 County.

181 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
182 amended as follows:

183 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

184 9-5-15. The Fourth Chancery Court District * * * is composed
185 of the following counties:

- 186 (a) Amite County;
187 (b) Franklin County;
188 (c) Pike County; and
189 (d) Walthall County.

190 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
191 **follows:]**

192 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District * * * is
193 composed of the following counties:

- 194 (a) Amite County;



- 195 (b) Franklin County;
196 (c) Pike County; and
197 (d) Walthall County.

198 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth
199 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
200 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
201 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

202 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
203 amended as follows:

204 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District * * * is
205 composed of Hinds County.

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

208 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
209 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33,
210 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92,
211 93, 96 and 97.

212 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
213 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23,
214 27, 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83,
215 84, * * * 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin * * *.

216 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
217 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26,
218 31, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 * * * ,
219 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.



220 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
221 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 87, 88, 90 * * * 91, 94, 95,
222 Bolton, Byram 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton
223 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards,
224 Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge,
225 St. Thomas, Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2 * * *.

226 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
227 amended as follows:

228 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District * * * is composed
229 of the following counties:

- 230 (a) Attala County;
231 (b) Carroll County;
232 (c) Choctaw County;
233 (d) Kemper County;
234 (e) Neshoba County; and
235 (f) Winston County.

236 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
237 amended as follows:

238 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
239 Sixth Chancery Court District.

240 (2) * * * The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
241 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
242 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

243 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
244 amended as follows:



245 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District * * * is
246 composed of the following counties:

- 247 (a) Bolivar County;
- 248 (b) Coahoma County;
- 249 (c) Leflore County;
- 250 (d) Quitman County;
- 251 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 252 (f) Tunica County.

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

- 255 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
256 Coahoma County;
- 257 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
258 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

259 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
260 amended as follows:

261 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District * * * is composed
262 of the following counties:

- 263 (a) Hancock County;
- 264 (b) Harrison County; and
- 265 (c) Stone County.

266 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
267 amended as follows:

268 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
269 Eighth Chancery Court District.



270 (2) * * * The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
271 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
272 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

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

280 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
281 amended as follows:

282 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District * * * is
283 composed of the following counties:

- 284 (a) Humphreys County;
- 285 (b) Issaquena County;
- 286 (c) Sharkey County;
- 287 (d) Sunflower County;
- 288 (e) Warren County; and
- 289 (f) Washington County.

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

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



294 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
295 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
296 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
297 and Sunflower Plantation * * *; and

298 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
299 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
300 Elks Club, Extension Building, * * * Grace Methodist Church*,
301 Greenville Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic,
302 Leland * * * Rotary Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House
303 Church * * *.

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

306 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, * * * Indianola
307 2 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
308 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
309 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4 * * *; and

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

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



318 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
319 amended as follows:

320 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District * * * is composed
321 of the following counties:

- 322 (a) Forrest County;
- 323 (b) Lamar County;
- 324 (c) Marion County;
- 325 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 326 (e) Perry County.

327 **SECTION 15.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
328 amended as follows:

329 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
330 Tenth Chancery Court District.

331 (2) * * * The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
332 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
333 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
334 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four * * * may be a
335 resident of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill
336 Place Two * * * must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River
337 or Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Three * * * must be
338 a resident of Forrest County. Election of the four (4) offices of
339 chancellor shall be by election to be held in every county within
340 the Tenth Chancery Court District * * *.

341 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
342 amended as follows:



343 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District * * * is
344 composed of the following counties:

- 345 (a) Holmes County;
- 346 (b) Leake County;
- 347 (c) Madison County; and
- 348 (d) Yazoo County.

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

351 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
352 Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: Bible
353 Church, Canton * * * 4, Canton * * * 5, Flora, Madison County
354 Baptist Family Life Center, Magnolia Heights and Smith
355 School * * *;

356 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
357 the following precincts in Madison County: Bear Creek, Camden,
358 Cameron, * * * Canton * * * 1, Canton * * * 2, Canton * * * 3,
359 Canton * * * 7, Cedar Grove, Cobblestone, Couparle, * * *
360 Gluckstadt, Highland Colony Baptist Church, Liberty,
361 Lorman/Cavalier, Luther Branson School, Madison 1, * * * Madison
362 2, Madison 3, Main Harbor, New Industrial Park, North Bay, Ratliff
363 Ferry, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4, Ridgeland First
364 Methodist Church, Ridgeland Tennis Center, Sharon, Sunnybrook,
365 Tougaloo, Trace Harbor, Victory Baptist Church, Virililia, Whisper
366 Lake and Yandell Road * * *.



367 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
368 amended as follows:

369 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

370 9-5-38. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Eleventh
371 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
372 each subdistrict.

373 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
374 **follows:]**

375 9-5-38. There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
376 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
377 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
378 elected from * * * Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes
379 of appointment and election only as "Place One," one (1)
380 chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated
381 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place Two," and
382 one (1) chancellor shall be elected at large from the entire
383 Eleventh Chancery Court District and denominated for purposes of
384 appointment and election only as "Place Three."

385 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
386 amended as follows:

387 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District * * * is
388 composed of the following counties:

- 389 (a) Clarke County; and
390 (b) Lauderdale County.



391 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
392 amended as follows:

393 9-5-40. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
394 Chancery Court District.

395 (2) * * * The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
396 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
397 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

398 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
399 amended as follows:

400 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
401 composed of the following counties:

- 402 (a) Covington County;
- 403 (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- 404 (c) Lawrence County;
- 405 (d) Simpson County; and
- 406 (e) Smith County.

407 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
408 Chancery Court District. * * * The two (2) chancellorships shall
409 be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
410 appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

411 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
412 amended as follows:

413 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
414 composed of the following counties:

- 415 (a) Chickasaw County;



- 416 (b) Clay County;
- 417 (c) Lowndes County;
- 418 (d) Noxubee County;
- 419 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 420 (f) Webster County.

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

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

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

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

435 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
436 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
437 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
438 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
439 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
440 Hunt C, Lee * * * Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope



441 B, New Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B,
442 Rural Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens
443 C, * * * Trinity B, Union Academy * * * B, Union Academy C and
444 University A * * *.

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

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

450 (ii) Lowndes County: * * * Artesia, * * * Coleman
451 A, Coleman B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B,
452 Fairgrounds D, Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New
453 Hope * * * F, Plum Grove A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst
454 Park Community Hut, Trinity A, Union Academy * * * A, University
455 B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes B * * *; and

456 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
457 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
458 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums * * * ,
459 South Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.

460 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
461 amended as follows:

462 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
463 composed of the following counties:

464 (a) Copiah County; and

465 (b) Lincoln County.



466 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
467 amended as follows:

468 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
469 composed of the following counties:

- 470 (a) George County;
- 471 (b) Greene County; and
- 472 (c) Jackson County.

473 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
474 amended as follows:

475 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
476 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

477 (2) * * * The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate
478 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
479 election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

480 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
481 amended as follows:

482 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District * * *
483 is composed of the following counties:

- 484 (a) Adams County;
- 485 (b) Claiborne County;
- 486 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 487 (d) Wilkinson County.

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



490 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
491 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
492 Airport * * * Carpenter*, Convention Center*, Foster Mound,
493 Maryland * * **, Northside School, Palestine, Pine Ridge,
494 Thompson * * * and Washington*.

495 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
496 and the following precincts in Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont,
497 By-Pass Fire Station, * * * Carpenter*, Concord, Convention
498 Center*, Courthouse, Duncan Park, Kingston, Liberty Park,
499 Maryland*, Morgantown * * *, Oakland * * * and Washington*.

500 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
501 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
502 each subdistrict.

503 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
504 amended as follows:

505 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
506 composed of the following counties:

- 507 (a) Benton County;
- 508 (b) Calhoun County;
- 509 (c) Lafayette County;
- 510 (d) Marshall County; and
- 511 (e) Tippah County.

512 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
513 amended as follows:



514 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
515 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

516 (2) * * * The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
517 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
518 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

519 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
520 amended as follows:

521 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District * * * is
522 composed of the following counties:

523 (a) Jones County; and

524 (b) Wayne County.

525 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
526 amended as follows:

527 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be * * *
528 Rankin County.

529 **SECTION 30.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
530 amended as follows:

531 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

532 9-5-58. There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Twentieth
533 Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment and election
534 the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
535 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
536 "Place One" and "Place Two."

537 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
538 **follows:]**



539 9-5-58. There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
540 Twentieth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
541 and election the * * * three (3) chancellorships shall be separate
542 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
543 election only as "Place One," * * * "Place Two * * *" and "Place
544 Three."

545 **SECTION 31.** 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 * * * composed
549 of the counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A
550 court to be styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall
551 be held in each county, and within each judicial district of a
552 county having two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a
553 year. * * * Court shall be held in circuit court districts
554 consisting of a single county * * * on the same dates state
555 agencies and political subdivisions are open for business
556 excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms shall
557 commence and the number of days for which * * * the 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 * * * a term 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 * * * the terms of court are
568 to become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
569 court shall commence and the number of days for which * * * the
570 terms shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit
571 court district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk
572 of each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
573 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all
574 Mississippi Bar members. * * * If an order is not timely
575 entered * * *, the terms of court for each of the counties within
576 any * * * circuit court district shall remain unchanged for the
577 next calendar year. A certified copy of any order entered under
578 the provisions of this subsection shall, immediately upon the
579 entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of the board of
580 supervisors in each of the counties within the circuit court
581 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 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
612 amended as follows:



613 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District * * * is composed of
614 the following counties:

- 615 (a) Alcorn County;
- 616 (b) Itawamba County;
- 617 (c) Lee County;
- 618 (d) Monroe County;
- 619 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 620 (f) Prentiss County; and
- 621 (g) Tishomingo County.

622 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
623 amended as follows:

624 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
625 Circuit Court District.

626 (2) * * * The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and
627 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
628 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
629 The judge to fill Place One * * * must reside in Alcorn, Prentiss
630 or Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place
631 Three * * * must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe or Pontotoc
632 County. The judge to fill Place Four * * * may be a resident of
633 any county in the district. Election of the four (4) offices of
634 judge shall be by election to be held in every county within the
635 First Circuit Court District.

636 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
637 amended as follows:



638 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District * * * is composed
639 of the following counties:

- 640 (a) Hancock County;
- 641 (b) Harrison County; and
- 642 (c) Stone County.

643 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
644 amended as follows:

645 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) * * * judges for the
646 Second Circuit Court District.

647 (2) * * * The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and
648 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
649 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

650 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
651 amended as follows:

652 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District * * * is composed
653 of the following counties:

- 654 (a) Benton County;
- 655 (b) Calhoun County;
- 656 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 657 (d) Lafayette County;
- 658 (e) Marshall County;
- 659 (f) Tippah County; and
- 660 (g) Union County.

661 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
662 amended as follows:



663 9-7-14. (1) There shall be three (3) * * * judges for the
664 Third Circuit Court District.

665 (2) * * * The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and
666 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
667 only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three." The judge to
668 fill "Place One" * * * must be a resident of Calhoun, Chickasaw,
669 Lafayette or Union * * * County. The judge to fill "Place
670 Two" * * * must be a resident of Benton, Marshall or Tippah
671 County. The judge to fill "Place Three" * * * may be a resident
672 of any county in the district.

673 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
674 amended as follows:

675 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District * * * is composed
676 of the following counties:

- 677 (a) Attala County;
- 678 (b) Carroll County;
- 679 (c) Choctaw County;
- 680 (d) Grenada County;
- 681 (e) Montgomery County;
- 682 (f) Webster County; and
- 683 (g) Winston County.

684 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
685 amended as follows:

686 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
687 Circuit Court District.



688 (2) * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
689 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
690 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

691 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
692 amended as follows:

693 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District * * * is
694 composed of the following counties:

- 695 (a) Adams County;
- 696 (b) Amite County;
- 697 (c) Franklin County; and
- 698 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

703 (i) Adams County: Airport * * *, By-Pass Fire
704 Station, * * * Carpenter * * *, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan
705 Park*, Foster Mound, Maryland* * * *, Northside School, Pine
706 Ridge, Thompson * * * and Washington*; and

707 (ii) Amite County: Ariel, Berwick, Crosby, East
708 Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*, Homochitto, South Liberty*
709 and Street * * *.

710 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin
711 County * * * and the following precincts in the following
712 counties:



713 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
714 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
715 Park, Maryland*, Morgantown, Oakland * * *, Palestine * * * and
716 Washington*; and

717 (ii) Amite County: Amite River, East Fork, East
718 Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion, Oneil,
719 Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw, Walls
720 and Zion Hills.

721 (3) There shall be two (2) * * * judges for the Sixth
722 Circuit Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate
723 and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
724 subdistrict.

725 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
726 amended as follows:

727 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall
728 be * * * Hinds County.

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

731 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
732 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33,
733 34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92,
734 93, 96 and 97.

735 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
736 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23,



737 27, 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83,
738 84, * * * 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin * * *.

739 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
740 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26,
741 31, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 * * * ,
742 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89, and Jackson State.

743 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
744 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 87, 88, 90 * * * , 91, 94, 95,
745 Bolton, Byram 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton
746 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards,
747 Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge,
748 St. Thomas, Terry, Utica 1 * * * and Utica 2 * * *.

749 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
750 amended as follows:

751 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District * * * is
752 composed of the following counties:

- 753 (a) Leake County;
754 (b) Neshoba County;
755 (c) Newton County; and
756 (d) Scott County.

757 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
758 Court District. * * *

759 (3) * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
760 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
761 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."



762 **SECTION 43.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
763 amended as follows:

764 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District * * * is
765 composed of the following counties:

- 766 (a) Issaquena County;
- 767 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 768 (c) Warren County.

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

771 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
772 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61
773 Store*, American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar
774 Grove*, * * * Kings*, Number 7 Fire Station*, St. Aloysius * * *
775 and Vicksburg Junior High School*.

776 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following
777 precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Bovina, Cedar
778 Grove*, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, * * * Jett, Kings*, Moose
779 Lodge, Number 7 Fire Station*, Oak Ridge, Plumbers Hall, * * *
780 Redwood, Tingleville, Vicksburg Junior High School*, YMCA and
781 Yokena * * *.

782 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
783 amended as follows:

784 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District * * * is composed
785 of the following counties:

- 786 (a) Clarke County;



- 787 (b) Kemper County;
788 (c) Lauderdale County; and
789 (d) Wayne County.

790 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
791 amended as follows:

792 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
793 Circuit Court District.

794 (2) * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
795 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
796 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

797 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
798 amended as follows:

799 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District * * * is
800 composed of the following counties:

- 801 (a) Bolivar County;
802 (b) Coahoma County;
803 (c) Quitman County; and
804 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

809 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle,
810 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, * * * East Central Cleveland*, East
811 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, Gunnison, Longshot, North Cleveland,



812 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace, Scott, Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*,
813 Stringtown, West Central Cleveland, West Cleveland * * * and West
814 Rosedale * * *; and

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

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

819 (i) Bolivar County: * * * Cleveland Eastgate,
820 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
821 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Renova, Shelby, South
822 Cleveland* and Winstonville * * *;

823 (ii) Coahoma County: Cagle Crossing, Clarksdale
824 1-4*, Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4, Clarksdale 4-2, * * *
825 Clarksdale 4-3, Dublin and * * * Roundaway * * *; and

826 (iii) Quitman County: * * * Belen*, District 3
827 South*, Lambert, Northwest Marks, Southwest Marks and West
828 Lambert * * *.

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

831 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 1-4*, * * *
832 Clarksdale 2-4*, Clarksdale 5-4*, Coahoma, Farrell*, Friar's
833 Point, Jonestown, Lula, Lyon * * * and Sherard*; and

834 (ii) Quitman County: Belen*, * * * Crenshaw,
835 Crowder, Darling, District 3 North, District 3 South* and
836 Sledge * * *.



837 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
838 amended as follows:

839 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

840 9-7-35. The Twelfth Circuit Court District * * * is composed
841 of the following counties:

842 (a) Forrest County; and

843 (b) Perry County.

844 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
845 **follows:]**

846 9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District * * * is
847 composed of the following counties:

848 (a) Forrest County; and

849 (b) Perry County.

850 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth Circuit
851 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
852 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
853 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

854 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
855 amended as follows:

856 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

857 9-7-37. The Thirteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
858 composed of the following counties:

859 (a) Covington County;

860 (b) Jasper County;

861 (c) Simpson County; and



862 (d) Smith County.

863 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
864 **follows:]**

865 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
866 composed of the following counties:

- 867 (a) Covington County;
- 868 (b) Jasper County;
- 869 (c) Simpson County; and
- 870 (d) Smith County.

871 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Thirteenth Circuit
872 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
873 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
874 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

875 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
876 amended as follows:

877 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
878 composed of the following counties:

- 879 (a) Lincoln County;
- 880 (b) Pike County; and
- 881 (c) Walthall County.

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

884 (b) * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
885 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
886 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."



887 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
888 amended as follows:

889 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
890 composed of the following counties:

- 891 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 892 (b) Lamar County;
- 893 (c) Lawrence County;
- 894 (d) Marion County; and
- 895 (e) Pearl River County.

896 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
897 amended as follows:

898 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

899 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
900 Circuit Court District.

901 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
902 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
903 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
904 "Place Two."

905 **[From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
906 **follows:]**

907 9-7-42. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) judges for the
908 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

909 (2) * * * The * * * three (3) judgeships shall be separate
910 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
911 election only as "Place One," * * * "Place Two * * *," and "Place



912 Three." The judge to fill Place One must be a resident of
913 Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence or Marion County. The judge to
914 fill Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district.
915 The judge to fill Place Three must be a resident of Pearl River
916 County.

917 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
918 amended as follows:

919 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
920 composed of the following counties:

- 921 (a) Clay County;
- 922 (b) Lowndes County;
- 923 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 924 (d) Oktibbeha County.

925 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
926 amended as follows:

927 9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
928 Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

929 (2) * * * The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and
930 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
931 only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three." The judge to
932 fill Place One * * * must be a resident of Lowndes County. The
933 judge to fill Place Two * * * must be a resident of Oktibbeha
934 County. The judge to fill Place Three * * * must be a resident of
935 either Clay or Noxubee County. Election of the three (3) offices



936 of judge shall be by election to be held in every county within
937 the Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

938 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
939 amended as follows:

940 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
941 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

942 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall * * * be composed of DeSoto
943 County; and

944 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall * * * be composed of Panola
945 County, Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

946 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
947 amended as follows:

948 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District * * * is
949 composed of the following counties:

950 (a) George County;

951 (b) Greene County; and

952 (c) Jackson County.

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

958 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
959 amended as follows:



960 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) * * * judges for the
961 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. * * * The three (3) judgeships
962 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
963 appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and
964 "Place Three."

965 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
966 District may divide the court of any county within the district
967 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
968 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
969 court.

970 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
971 amended as follows:

972 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District * * * is
973 composed of the following counties:

- 974 (a) Madison County; and
975 (b) Rankin County.

976 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
977 amended as follows:

978 **[Until January 1, 2016, this section shall read as follows:]**

979 9-7-54. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twentieth
980 Circuit Court District.

981 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
982 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
983 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
984 "Place Two."



985 [From and after January 1, 2016, this section shall read as
986 follows:]

987 9-7-54. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) judges for the
988 Twentieth Circuit Court District.

989 (2) * * * The * * * three (3) judgeships shall be separate
990 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
991 election only as "Place One," * * * "Place Two * * *" and "Place
992 Three." The judge to fill Place One must reside in Rankin County,
993 the judge to fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the
994 judge to fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin
995 County.

996 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
997 amended as follows:

998 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District * * * is
999 composed of the following counties:

- 1000 (a) Holmes County;
- 1001 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 1002 (c) Yazoo County.

1003 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1004 amended as follows:

1005 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District * * * is
1006 composed of the following counties:

- 1007 (a) Claiborne County;
- 1008 (b) Copiah County; and
- 1009 (c) Jefferson County.



1010 **SECTION 61.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1011 amended as follows:

1012 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal
1013 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,
1014 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state
1015 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1016 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to
1017 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a
1018 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be
1019 a state employee.

1020 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1021 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1022 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1023 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1024 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1025 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1026 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1027 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1028 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1029 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1030 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1031 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1032 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1033 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1034 fulfilling that duty.



1035 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1036 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1037 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1038 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1039 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1040 court judge.

1041 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1042 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1043 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1044 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of
1045 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1046 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1047 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1048 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1049 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1050 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1051 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1052 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1053 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1054 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1055 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1056 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1057 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1058 municipality.



1059 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1060 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1061 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1062 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
1063 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
1064 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
1065 operation of the victim assistance program.

1066 **SECTION 62.** The boundaries of the precincts described in
1067 Sections 9-5-17 (Fifth Chancery Court District), 9-5-31, (Ninth
1068 Chancery Court District), 95-5-37 (Eleventh Chancery District),
1069 9-5-43 (Fourteenth Chancery Court District), 9-5-51 (Seventeenth
1070 Chancery Court District), 9-7-21 (Sixth Circuit Court District),
1071 9-7-23 (Seventh Circuit Court District), 9-7-29 (Ninth Circuit
1072 Court District) and 9-7-33 (Eleventh Circuit Court District),
1073 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be the boundaries of the precincts
1074 as those boundaries are contained in the Census Bureau's 2010
1075 TIGER/Line Shapefiles released in November 2010. Partial or split
1076 precincts are identified by an asterisk (*).

1077 **SECTION 63.** (1) The Standing Joint Legislative Committee on
1078 Reapportionment is directed to provide the counties census block
1079 equivalency files and maps necessary to assist the counties in
1080 identifying the boundaries of any subdistricts within a chancery
1081 or circuit court district.

1082 (2) (a) The Split Precinct Block List developed in
1083 conjunction with House Bill No. 703, 2015 Regular Session, that



1084 details the portions of the partial or split precincts that are
1085 contained within a judicial subdistrict by census block number as
1086 that list is utilized to detail partial or split precincts for
1087 judicial subdistricts in this act is hereby incorporated into and
1088 shall be construed to be an integral part of this act. A partial
1089 or split precinct contained in this act is identified by an
1090 asterisk (*) following its designation within any judicial
1091 subdistrict. The Standing Joint Legislative Committee on
1092 Reapportionment shall file the Split Precinct Block List with the
1093 Secretary of State.

1094 (3) (a) This act shall be liberally construed to effectuate
1095 the purposes hereof and to redistrict the trial courts of this
1096 state in compliance with constitutional requirements.

1097 (b) It is intended that this act and the districts and
1098 subdistricts described herein completely encompass all the area
1099 within the state and all the voters in this state. It is also
1100 intended that no district shall include any of the area included
1101 within the description of any other district, and that no
1102 subdistrict shall include any of the area included within the
1103 description of any other subdistrict.

1104 (c) (i) If the districts or subdistricts described in
1105 this act do not carry out the purposes hereof because of:
1106 omissions; duplication; overlapping areas; erroneous nomenclature;
1107 lack of adequate maps or descriptions of political subdivisions,
1108 wards or other divisions thereof, or of their boundary lines; then



1109 the Secretary of State, at the joint request of the Lieutenant
1110 Governor and the Speaker of the House, by order, shall correct any
1111 omissions, overlaps, erroneous nomenclature or other defects in
1112 the description of the districts and subdistricts so as to
1113 accomplish the purposes and objectives of this act.

1114 (ii) In promulgating any order under this
1115 subsection (3), the Secretary of State, in addition to insuring
1116 that all areas of the state are completely and accurately
1117 encompassed in the districts and subdistricts, shall be guided by
1118 the following standards:

1119 1. Gaps in the description of any district or
1120 subdistrict shall be completed in a manner that results in a total
1121 description of the district or subdistrict that is consonant with
1122 the description of adjacent districts or subdistricts and results
1123 in complete contiguity of districts and subdistricts;

1124 2. In any allocation of area or correction of
1125 descriptions made pursuant to this subsection, the Secretary of
1126 State shall, consistent with the foregoing standards, preserve the
1127 contiguity and compactness of districts and subdistricts and avoid
1128 the unnecessary division of political subdivisions.

1129 (d) A copy of any order issued under this subsection
1130 shall be filed by the Secretary of State in his own office and in
1131 the offices of the affected commissioners of election and
1132 registrars. The Secretary of State may adopt reasonable rules
1133 regulating the procedure for applications for orders under this



1134 act and the manner of serving and filing any notice or copy of
1135 orders. Upon the filing of an order, the description of any
1136 affected district or subdistrict shall be deemed to have been
1137 corrected to the full extent as if the correction had been
1138 contained in the original description set forth in this act.

1139 (e) The redistricting contained in this act supersedes
1140 any prior redistricting.

1141 (4) The Joint Legislative Committee on Compilation, Revision
1142 and Publication of Legislation shall direct that subsections (1)
1143 through (3) of this section are placed in the editor's notes that
1144 follow Sections 9-5-1 and 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972.

1145 **SECTION 64.** Candidates for new chancellorships and circuit
1146 judgeships created by this act shall run for those offices in a
1147 special election to be conducted in conjunction with the general
1148 election of November 2015. Candidates shall file the intent to be
1149 a candidate not later than 5:00 p.m. on June 1, 2015, and
1150 otherwise shall qualify as provided by Section 23-15-977, and
1151 shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections
1152 23-15-974 through 23-15-985 (Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act).
1153 The judges elected shall serve a three-year term to begin January
1154 1, 2016, and the terms of those offices shall thereafter be as is
1155 provided for chancellors and circuit judges generally.

1156 **SECTION 65.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1157 and after its passage.

