

By: Representative Denny

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 932

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE REGISTRARS TO MAIL A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD TO THE
3 MAILING ADDRESS PROVIDED ON AN APPLICANT'S VOTER REGISTRATION
4 FORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 23-15-39. (1) Applications for registration as electors of
9 this state, which are sworn to and subscribed before the registrar
10 or deputy registrar authorized by law and which are not made by
11 mail, shall be made upon a form established by rule duly adopted
12 by the Secretary of State.

13 (2) The boards of supervisors shall make proper allowances
14 for office supplies reasonably necessitated by the registration of
15 county electors.

16 (3) If the applicant indicates on the application that he
17 resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county of
18 registration, the county registrar shall process the application



19 for registration or changes to the registration as provided by
20 law.

21 (4) If the applicant indicates on the application that he
22 has previously registered to vote in another county of this state
23 or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of
24 registration in this state shall be provided by the Statewide
25 Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of
26 registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the
27 voter's previous state of residence if the Statewide Elections
28 Management System has that capability.

29 (5) The county registrar shall provide to the person making
30 the application a copy of the application upon which has been
31 written the county voting precinct and municipal voting precinct,
32 if any, in which the person shall vote. Upon entry of the voter
33 registration information into the Statewide Elections Management
34 System, the system shall assign a voter registration number to the
35 person, and the county registrar shall mail the applicant a voter
36 registration card to the mailing address provided on the
37 application.

38 (6) Any person desiring an application for registration may
39 secure an application from the registrar of the county of which he
40 is a resident and may take the application with him and secure
41 assistance in completing the application from any person of the
42 applicant's choice. It shall be the duty of all registrars to
43 furnish applications for registration to all persons requesting



44 them, and it shall likewise be his duty to furnish aid and
45 assistance in the completing of the application when requested by
46 an applicant. The application for registration shall be sworn to
47 and subscribed before the registrar or deputy registrar at the
48 municipal clerk's office, the county registrar's office or any
49 other location where the applicant is allowed to register to vote.
50 No fee or cost shall be charged the applicant by the registrar for
51 accepting the application or administering the oath or for any
52 other duty imposed by law regarding the registration of electors.

53 (7) If the person making the application is unable to read
54 or write, for reason of disability or otherwise, he shall not be
55 required to personally complete the application in writing and
56 execute the oath. In such cases, the registrar or deputy
57 registrar shall read to the person the application and oath and
58 the person's answers thereto shall be recorded by the registrar or
59 his deputy. The person shall be registered as an elector if he
60 otherwise meets the requirements to be registered as an elector.
61 The registrar shall record the responses of the person and the
62 recorded responses shall be retained permanently by the registrar.
63 The registrar shall enter the voter registration information into
64 the Statewide Elections Management System and designate the entry
65 as an assisted filing.

66 (8) The receipt of a copy of the application for
67 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-35(2) shall be



68 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector
69 of this state, if the application is not challenged.

70 (9) In any case in which a municipality expands its
71 corporate boundaries by annexation or redistricts all or a part of
72 the municipality, the municipal clerk shall within ten (10) days
73 after the effective date of the annexation or after preclearance
74 of the redistricting plan under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
75 of 1965, provide the county registrar with conforming geographic
76 data that is compatible with the Statewide Elections Management
77 System. The data shall be developed by the municipality's use of
78 a standardized format specified by the Statewide Elections
79 Management System. The county registrar shall update the
80 municipal boundary information or redistricting information into
81 the Statewide Elections Management System. The Statewide
82 Elections Management System shall update the voter registration
83 records to include the new municipal electors who have resided
84 within the annexed area for at least thirty (30) days after
85 annexation and assign the electors to the municipal voting
86 precincts. The county registrar shall forward to the municipal
87 clerk written notification of the additions and changes, and the
88 municipal clerk shall forward to the new municipal electors
89 written notification of the additions and changes. The Statewide
90 Elections Management System shall correctly place municipal
91 electors within districts whose boundaries were altered by any



92 redistricting conducted within the municipality and assign such
93 electors to the correct municipal voting precincts.

94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2015.

