

By: Senator(s) Jolly

To: Municipalities;  
Elections

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2603

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 21-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE MUNICIPALITIES WITH A POPULATION OF 500 OR LESS TO ELECT  
3 THREE ALDERMEN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 21-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 21-3-7. (1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this  
8 section, in all municipalities having a population of less than  
9 ten thousand (10,000) according to the latest available federal  
10 census, there shall be five (5) aldermen, which aldermen may be  
11 elected from the municipality at large, or, in the discretion of  
12 the municipal authority, the municipality may be divided into four  
13 (4) wards, with one (1) alderman to be selected from each ward and  
14 one (1) from the municipality at large. On a petition of twenty  
15 percent (20%) of the qualified electors of any such municipality,  
16 the provisions of this section as to whether or not the aldermen  
17 shall be elected from wards or from the municipality at large  
18 shall be determined by the vote of the majority of \* \* \*~~such~~ the



19 qualified electors of \* \* \*~~such~~ the municipality voting in a  
20 special election called for that purpose. All aldermen shall be  
21 selected by vote of the entire electorate of the municipality.  
22 Those municipalities which determine to select one (1) alderman  
23 from each of the four (4) wards shall select one (1) from the  
24 candidates for alderman from each particular ward who shall be a  
25 resident of said ward by majority vote of the entire electorate of  
26 the municipality.

27 (2) In all municipalities having a population of ten  
28 thousand (10,000) or more, according to the latest available  
29 federal census, there shall be seven (7) aldermen, which aldermen  
30 may be elected from the municipality at large, or, in the  
31 discretion of the municipal authority, the municipality may be  
32 divided into six (6) wards, with one (1) alderman to be selected  
33 from each ward and one (1) from the municipality at large. On a  
34 petition of twenty percent (20%) of the qualified electors of any  
35 such municipality, the provisions of this section as to whether or  
36 not the aldermen shall be elected from wards or from the  
37 municipality at large shall be determined by the vote of the  
38 majority of \* \* \*~~such~~ the qualified electors of \* \* \*~~such~~ the  
39 municipality voting in a special election called for that purpose.  
40 This section in no way affects the number of aldermen, councilmen,  
41 or commissioners of any city operating under a special charter.  
42 All aldermen shall be selected by vote of the entire electorate of  
43 the municipality. Those municipalities which determine to select



44 one (1) alderman from each of the six (6) wards shall select one  
45 (1) of the candidates for alderman from each particular ward by  
46 majority vote of the entire electorate of the municipality.

47 (3) In any municipality having a population of five hundred  
48 (500) or less according to the latest available federal census,  
49 there may be three (3) aldermen. The change from five (5)  
50 aldermen to three (3) aldermen shall be approved by a majority of  
51 the qualified electors of the municipality voting in a special  
52 election held for this purpose.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
54 and after July 1, 2016.

