

By: Representative Reynolds

To: Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 286

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE THAT A VETERAN, AS DEFINED IN TITLE 38 OF THE UNITED
 3 STATES CODE, WHO HAS COMMITTED A NONVIOLENT DISQUALIFYING CRIME AS
 4 PROVIDED IN SECTION 241, MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890, SHALL
 5 HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE RESTORED AFTER COMPLETING ALL OF THE
 6 SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-19, MISSISSIPPI
 7 CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO BRING
 8 FORWARD SECTION 23-15-151, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
 9 PROVIDES FOR THE REMOVAL OF VOTERS CONVICTED OF VOTER FRAUD OR
 10 DISENFRANCHISING CRIMES FROM THE STATEWIDE ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT
 11 SYSTEM, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
 12 PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 15 amended as follows:

16 23-15-11. Every inhabitant of this state, except persons
 17 adjudicated to be non compos mentis, shall be a qualified elector
 18 in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his or
 19 her residence and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon
 20 compliance with Section 23-15-563, if he or she is:

21 (a) * * * A citizen of the United States of
 22 America * * *;

23 (b) Eighteen (18) years old and upwards * * *;



24 (c) * * * Has resided in this state for thirty (30)
25 days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she
26 seeks to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated
27 municipality in which he or she seeks to vote * * *;

28 (d) * * * Has been duly registered as an elector under
29 Section 23-15-33 * * *; and

30 (e) * * * Has never been convicted of * * * any crime
31 listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, * * *
32 except that a veteran, as defined in Title 38 of the United States
33 Code, who committed a nonviolent disqualifying crime listed in
34 Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, shall have the
35 right to vote after completing all of the requirements of his or
36 her sentence. Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age
37 or older on or before the date of the general election and who is
38 duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the
39 primary election associated with the general election, may vote in
40 the primary election even though the person has not reached his or
41 her eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote
42 at the primary election. No others than those specified in this
43 section shall be entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any
44 election.

45 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
46 amended as follows:

47 23-15-19. Except as otherwise provided in Section 23-15-11,
48 any person who has been convicted of vote fraud or any crime



49 listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, such
50 crimes defined as "disenfranchising," shall not be registered, or
51 if registered the name of the person shall be removed from the
52 Statewide Elections Management System by the registrar or the
53 election commissioners of the county of his or her residence.
54 Whenever any person shall be convicted in the circuit court of his
55 or her county of a disenfranchising crime, the county registrar
56 shall thereupon remove his or her name from the Statewide
57 Elections Management System; and whenever any person shall be
58 convicted of a disenfranchising crime in any other court of any
59 county, the presiding judge of the court shall, on demand, certify
60 the fact in writing to the registrar of the county in which the
61 voter resides, who shall thereupon remove the name of the person
62 from the Statewide Elections Management System and retain the
63 certificate as a record of his or her office.

64 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
65 brought forward as follows:

66 23-15-151. The circuit clerk of each county is authorized
67 and directed to prepare and keep in his or her office a full and
68 complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of
69 voter fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
70 Constitution of 1890. A certified copy of any enrollment by one
71 clerk to another will be sufficient authority for the enrollment
72 of the name, or names, in another county. A list of persons
73 convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241,



74 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as
75 disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, shall also be
76 entered into the Statewide Elections Management System on a
77 quarterly basis. Voters who have been convicted in a Mississippi
78 state court of any disenfranchising crime are not qualified
79 electors as defined by Section 23-15-11 and shall be purged or
80 otherwise removed by the county registrar or county election
81 commissioners from the Statewide Elections Management System.

82 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
83 and after July 1, 2018.

