

By: Representatives Denny, Steverson, Dixon,  
Sykes

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 937  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-213, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE STAGGERED TERMS FOR ELECTION COMMISSIONERS; TO AMEND  
3 SECTIONS 23-15-153 AND 23-15-239, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
4 INCREASE THE PER DIEM PAID TO ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
5 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES IN THE CONDUCT OF AN ELECTION OR IN  
6 THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES IN REVISING THE REGISTRATION BOOKS  
7 AND POLLBOOKS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 23-15-211, MISSISSIPPI  
8 CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TO BE PAID A  
9 PER DIEM FOR ATTENDING TRAINING EVENTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
10 23-15-225, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE  
11 REGISTRAR TO BE PAID THE SAME PER DIEM PAID TO ELECTION  
12 COMMISSIONERS IF THE REGISTRAR ASSISTS THE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS  
13 IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 **[Until \* \* \* December 31, 2022, this section shall read as**  
18 **follows:]**

19 23-15-213. (1) At the general election in 2020 \* \* \*, there  
20 shall be elected five (5) election commissioners for each county  
21 whose terms of office shall commence on the first Monday of  
22 January following their election \* \* \*. Each of the commissioners  
23 shall be required to attend a training seminar provided by the



24 Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a skills  
25 assessment, and before acting, shall take and subscribe the oath  
26 of office prescribed by the Constitution. The oath shall be filed  
27 in the office of the clerk of the chancery court. Upon filing the  
28 oath of office, the election commissioner may be provided access  
29 to the Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of  
30 performing his or her duties. While engaged in their duties, the  
31 commissioners shall be conservators of the peace in the county,  
32 with all the duties and powers of such.

33 (2) The qualified electors of each supervisors district  
34 shall elect, at the general election in 2020, in their district  
35 one (1) election commissioner. The election commissioners from  
36 board of supervisors' Districts One, Three and Five shall serve  
37 for a term of four (4) years. The election commissioners from  
38 board of supervisors' Districts Two and Four shall serve for a  
39 term of \* \* \* three (3) years. No more than one (1) commissioner  
40 shall be a resident of and reside in each supervisors district of  
41 the county; it being the purpose of this section that the county  
42 board of election commissioners shall consist of one (1) person  
43 from each supervisors district of the county and that each  
44 commissioner be elected from the supervisors district in which he  
45 or she resides.

46 (3) Candidates for county election commissioner shall  
47 qualify by filing with the clerk of the board of supervisors of  
48 their respective counties a petition personally signed by not less



49 than fifty (50) qualified electors of the supervisors district in  
50 which they reside, requesting that they be a candidate, by 5:00  
51 p.m. not later than the first Monday in June of the year in which  
52 the election occurs and unless the petition is filed within the  
53 required time, their names shall not be placed upon the ballot.  
54 All candidates shall declare in writing their party affiliation,  
55 if any, to the board of supervisors, and such party affiliation  
56 shall be shown on the official ballot.

57 (4) The petition shall have attached thereto a certificate  
58 of the county registrar showing the number of qualified electors  
59 on each petition, which shall be furnished by the registrar on  
60 request. The board shall determine the sufficiency of the  
61 petition, and if the petition contains the required number of  
62 signatures and is filed within the time required, the president of  
63 the board shall verify that the candidate is a resident of the  
64 supervisors district in which he or she seeks election and that  
65 the candidate is otherwise qualified as provided by law, and shall  
66 certify that the candidate is qualified to the chair or secretary  
67 of the county election commission and the names of the candidates  
68 shall be placed upon the ballot for the ensuing election. No  
69 county election commissioner shall serve or be considered as  
70 elected until he or she has received a majority of the votes cast  
71 for the position or post for which he or she is a candidate. If a  
72 majority vote is not received in the first election, then the two  
73 (2) candidates receiving the most votes for each position or post



74 shall be placed upon the ballot for a second election to be held  
75 three (3) weeks later in accordance with appropriate procedures  
76 followed in other elections involving runoff candidates.

77 (5) Upon taking office, the county election commissioners  
78 shall organize by electing a chair and a secretary.

79 (6) It shall be the duty of the chair to have the official  
80 ballot printed and distributed at each general or special  
81 election.

82 **[From and after January 1, \* \* \* 2023, this section shall**  
83 **read as follows:]**

84 23-15-213. (1) There shall be elected five (5) election  
85 commissioners for each county whose terms of office shall commence  
86 on the first Monday of January following their election and who  
87 shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Each of the  
88 commissioners shall be required to attend a training seminar  
89 provided by the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a  
90 skills assessment, and before acting, shall take and subscribe the  
91 oath of office prescribed by the Constitution. The oath shall be  
92 filed in the office of the clerk of the chancery court. Upon  
93 filing the oath of office, the election commissioner may be  
94 provided access to the Statewide Elections Management System for  
95 the purpose of performing his or her duties. While engaged in  
96 their duties, the commissioners shall be conservators of the peace  
97 in the county, with all the duties and powers of such.



98           (2)   (a)   At the general election in \* \* \* 2024 and every  
99   four (4) years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
100   supervisors' Districts One, Three and Five shall elect in their  
101   district one (1) election commissioner.

102                   (b)   At the general election in \* \* \* 2023 and every  
103   four (4) years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
104   supervisors' Districts Two and Four shall elect in their district  
105   one (1) election commissioner.

106                   (c)   No more than one (1) commissioner shall be a  
107   resident of and reside in each supervisors district of the county;  
108   it being the purpose of this section that the county board of  
109   election commissioners shall consist of one (1) person from each  
110   supervisors district of the county and that each commissioner be  
111   elected from the supervisors district in which he or she resides.

112           (3)   Candidates for county election commissioner shall  
113   qualify by filing with the clerk of the board of supervisors of  
114   their respective counties a petition personally signed by not less  
115   than fifty (50) qualified electors of the supervisors district in  
116   which they reside, requesting that they be a candidate, by 5:00  
117   p.m. not later than the first Monday in June of the year in which  
118   the election occurs and unless the petition is filed within the  
119   required time, their names shall not be placed upon the ballot.  
120   All candidates shall declare in writing their party affiliation,  
121   if any, to the board of supervisors, and such party affiliation  
122   shall be shown on the official ballot.



123           (4) The petition shall have attached thereto a certificate  
124 of the county registrar showing the number of qualified electors  
125 on each petition, which shall be furnished by the registrar on  
126 request. The board shall determine the sufficiency of the  
127 petition, and if the petition contains the required number of  
128 signatures and is filed within the time required, the president of  
129 the board shall verify that the candidate is a resident of the  
130 supervisors district in which he or she seeks election and that  
131 the candidate is otherwise qualified as provided by law, and shall  
132 certify that the candidate is qualified to the chair or secretary  
133 of the county election commission and the names of the candidates  
134 shall be placed upon the ballot for the ensuing election. No  
135 county election commissioner shall serve or be considered as  
136 elected until he or she has received a majority of the votes cast  
137 for the position or post for which he or she is a candidate. If a  
138 majority vote is not received in the first election, then the two  
139 (2) candidates receiving the most votes for each position or post  
140 shall be placed upon the ballot for a second election to be held  
141 three (3) weeks later in accordance with appropriate procedures  
142 followed in other elections involving runoff candidates.

143           (5) In the first meeting in January of each year, the county  
144 election commissioners shall organize by electing a chair and a  
145 secretary, who shall serve a one (1) year term. The county  
146 election commissioners shall provide the names of the chair and



147 secretary to the Secretary of State and provide notice of any  
148 change in officers which may occur during the year.

149 (6) It shall be the duty of the chair to have the official  
150 ballot printed and distributed at each general or special  
151 election.

152 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
153 amended as follows:

154 23-15-153. (1) At least during the following times, the  
155 election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar  
156 or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise  
157 the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the  
158 Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the  
159 names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter  
160 roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been  
161 convicted of a disenfranchising crime, or otherwise become  
162 disqualified as electors for any cause, and shall register the  
163 names of all persons who have duly applied to be registered but  
164 have been illegally denied registration:

165 (a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January  
166 1987 and every following year;

167 (b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately  
168 preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in  
169 the years when members of Congress are elected;

170 (c) On the first Monday in the month immediately  
171 preceding the first primary election for state, state district



172 legislative, county and county district offices in the years in  
173 which those offices are elected; and

174 (d) On the second Monday of September preceding the  
175 general election or regular special election day in years in which  
176 a general election is not conducted.

177 Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified  
178 to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in  
179 the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall  
180 be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on  
181 a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with  
182 procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of  
183 1993. Except as otherwise provided by Section 23-15-573, no  
184 person shall vote at any election whose name is not in the county  
185 voter roll electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections  
186 Management System.

187 (2) Except as provided in this section, and subject to the  
188 following annual limitations, the election commissioners shall be  
189 entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of \* \* \* One Hundred  
190 Dollars (\$100.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for  
191 every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated  
192 over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of  
193 their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in  
194 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in  
195 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained





196 by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in  
197 subsection (1) of this section:

198           (a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand  
199 (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
200 census, not more than fifty (50) days per year, with no more than  
201 fifteen (15) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
202 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

203           (b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000)  
204 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
205 less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the  
206 latest federal decennial census, not more than seventy-five (75)  
207 days per year, with no more than twenty-five (25) additional days  
208 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
209 occurring in any calendar year;

210           (c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000)  
211 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
212 less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the  
213 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred (100)  
214 days per year, with no more than thirty-five (35) additional days  
215 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
216 occurring in any calendar year;

217           (d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000)  
218 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
219 less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the  
220 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred



221 twenty-five (125) days per year, with no more than forty-five (45)  
222 additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess  
223 of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

224 (e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000)  
225 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
226 less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents  
227 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
228 one hundred fifty (150) days per year, with no more than  
229 fifty-five (55) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
230 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

231 (f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand  
232 (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
233 census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents  
234 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
235 one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year, with no more than  
236 sixty-five (65) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
237 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

238 (g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000)  
239 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
240 less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents  
241 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
242 one hundred ninety (190) days per year, with no more than  
243 seventy-five (75) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
244 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;



245 (h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand  
246 (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
247 census but less than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000)  
248 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not  
249 more than two hundred fifteen (15) days per year, with no more  
250 than eighty-five (85) additional days allowed for the conduct of  
251 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

252 (i) In counties having two hundred fifty thousand  
253 (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
254 census but less than two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000)  
255 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not  
256 more than two hundred thirty (30) days per year, with no more  
257 than ninety-five (95) additional days allowed for the conduct of  
258 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

259 (j) In counties having two hundred seventy-five  
260 thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal  
261 decennial census or more, not more than two hundred forty (40)  
262 days per year, with no more than one hundred five (105) additional  
263 days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
264 occurring in any calendar year.

265 (3) In addition to the number of days authorized in  
266 subsection (2) of this section, the board of supervisors of a  
267 county may authorize, in its discretion, the election  
268 commissioners to receive a per diem in the amount provided for in  
269 subsection (2) of this section, to be paid from the county general



270 fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours  
271 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the  
272 performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or  
273 actually employed in the performance of their duties for the  
274 necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as  
275 electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management  
276 System as required in subsection (1) of this section, for not to  
277 exceed five (5) days.

278 (4) (a) The election commissioners shall be entitled to  
279 receive a per diem in the amount of \* \* \* One Hundred Dollars  
280 (\$100.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed  
281 ten (10) days for every day or period of no less than five (5)  
282 hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in  
283 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in  
284 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained  
285 by the Statewide Elections Management System before any special  
286 election. For purposes of this paragraph, the regular special  
287 election day shall not be considered a special election. The  
288 annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section  
289 shall not apply to this paragraph.

290 (b) The election commissioners shall be entitled to  
291 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars  
292 (\$150.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for the  
293 performance of their duties on the day of any general or special



294 election. The annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of  
295 this section shall apply to this paragraph.

296 (5) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive  
297 a per diem in the amount of \* \* \* One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00),  
298 to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed fourteen  
299 (14) days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours  
300 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the  
301 performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the  
302 revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by  
303 the Statewide Elections Management System and in the conduct of a  
304 runoff election following either a general or special election.

305 (6) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive  
306 only one (1) per diem payment for those days when the election  
307 commissioners discharge more than one (1) duty or responsibility  
308 on the same day.

309 (7) In preparation for a municipal primary, runoff, general  
310 or special election, the county registrar shall generate and  
311 distribute the master voter roll and pollbooks from the Statewide  
312 Elections Management System for the municipality located within  
313 the county. The municipality shall pay the county registrar for  
314 the actual cost of preparing and printing the municipal master  
315 voter roll pollbooks. A municipality may secure "read only"  
316 access to the Statewide Elections Management System and print its  
317 own pollbooks using this information.



318 (8) County election commissioners who perform the duties of  
319 an executive committee with regard to the conduct of a primary  
320 election under a written agreement authorized by law to be entered  
321 into with an executive committee shall receive per diem as  
322 provided for in subsection (2) of this section. The days that  
323 county election commissioners are employed in the conduct of a  
324 primary election shall be treated the same as days county election  
325 commissioners are employed in the conduct of other elections.

326 (9) In addition to any per diem authorized by this section,  
327 any election commissioner shall be entitled to the mileage  
328 reimbursement rate allowable to federal employees for the use of a  
329 privately owned vehicle while on official travel on election day.

330 (10) Every election commissioner shall sign personally a  
331 certification setting forth the number of hours actually worked in  
332 the performance of the commissioner's official duties and for  
333 which the commissioner seeks compensation. The certification must  
334 be on a form as prescribed in this subsection. The commissioner's  
335 signature is, as a matter of law, made under the commissioner's  
336 oath of office and under penalties of perjury.

337 The certification form shall be as follows:

338 **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

339 **PER DIEM CLAIM FORM**

340 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
341 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_  
342 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



343 PURPOSE APPLICABLE ACTUAL PER DIEM  
 344 DATE BEGINNING ENDING OF MS CODE HOURS DAYS  
 345 WORKED TIME TIME WORK SECTION WORKED EARNED  
 346 \_\_\_\_\_  
 347 \_\_\_\_\_  
 348 \_\_\_\_\_

349 TOTAL NUMBER OF PER DIEM DAYS EARNED  
 350 EXCLUDING ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_  
 351 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$ \* \* \* 100.00  
 352 TOTAL NUMBER PER DIEM DAYS EARNED  
 353 FOR ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_  
 354 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$150.00  
 355 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PER DIEM CLAIMED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

356 I understand that I am signing this document under my oath as  
 357 an election commissioner and under penalties of perjury.

358 I understand that I am requesting payment from taxpayer funds  
 359 and that I have an obligation to be specific and truthful as to  
 360 the amount of hours worked and the compensation I am requesting.

361 Signed this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

362 \_\_\_\_\_

363 Commissioner's Signature

364 When properly completed and signed, the certification must be  
 365 filed with the clerk of the county board of supervisors before any  
 366 payment may be made. The certification will be a public record



367 available for inspection and reproduction immediately upon the  
368 oral or written request of any person.

369 Any person may contest the accuracy of the certification in  
370 any respect by notifying the chair of the commission, any member  
371 of the board of supervisors or the clerk of the board of  
372 supervisors of the contest at any time before or after payment is  
373 made. If the contest is made before payment is made, no payment  
374 shall be made as to the contested certificate until the contest is  
375 finally disposed of. The person filing the contest shall be  
376 entitled to a full hearing, and the clerk of the board of  
377 supervisors shall issue subpoenas upon request of the contestor  
378 compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents  
379 and things. The contestor shall have the right to appeal de novo  
380 to the circuit court of the involved county, which appeal must be  
381 perfected within thirty (30) days from a final decision of the  
382 commission, the clerk of the board of supervisors or the board of  
383 supervisors, as the case may be.

384 Any contestor who successfully contests any certification  
385 will be awarded all expenses incident to his or her contest,  
386 together with reasonable attorney's fees, which will be awarded  
387 upon petition to the chancery court of the involved county upon  
388 final disposition of the contest before the election commission,  
389 board of supervisors, clerk of the board of supervisors, or, in  
390 case of an appeal, final disposition by the court. The  
391 commissioner against whom the contest is decided shall be liable





392 for the payment of the expenses and attorney's fees, and the  
393 county shall be jointly and severally liable for same.

394 (11) Any election commissioner who has not received a  
395 certificate issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section  
396 23-15-211 indicating that the election commissioner has received  
397 the required elections seminar instruction and that the election  
398 commissioner is fully qualified to conduct an election, shall not  
399 receive any compensation authorized by this section or Section  
400 23-15-239.

401 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-239, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
402 amended as follows:

403 **[Until January 1, 2020, this section shall read as follows:]**

404 23-15-239. (1) The executive committee of each county, in  
405 the case of a primary election, or the election commissioners of  
406 each county, in the case of all other elections, in conjunction  
407 with the circuit clerk, shall, in the years in which counties  
408 conduct an election, sponsor and conduct, not less than five (5)  
409 days before each election, not less than four (4) hours and not  
410 more than eight (8) hours of poll manager training to instruct  
411 poll managers as to their duties in the proper administration of  
412 the election and the operation of the polling place. Any poll  
413 manager who completes the online training course provided by the  
414 Secretary of State shall only be required to complete two (2)  
415 hours of in-person poll manager training. No poll manager shall  
416 serve in any election unless he or she has received these



417 instructions once during the twelve (12) months immediately  
418 preceding the date upon which the election is held; however,  
419 nothing in this section shall prevent the appointment of an  
420 alternate poll manager to fill a vacancy in case of an emergency.  
421 The county executive committee or the election commissioners, as  
422 appropriate, shall train a sufficient number of alternates to  
423 serve in the event a poll manager is unable to serve for any  
424 reason.

425       (2) (a) If it is eligible under Section 23-15-266, the  
426 county executive committee may enter into a written agreement with  
427 the circuit clerk or the county election commission authorizing  
428 the circuit clerk or the county election commission to perform any  
429 of the duties required of the county executive committee pursuant  
430 to this section. Any agreement entered into pursuant to this  
431 subsection shall be signed by the chair of the county executive  
432 committee and the circuit clerk or the chair of the county  
433 election commission, as appropriate. The county executive  
434 committee shall notify the state executive committee and the  
435 Secretary of State of the existence of the agreement.

436       (b) If it is eligible under Section 23-15-266, the  
437 municipal executive committee may enter into a written agreement  
438 with the municipal clerk or the municipal election commission  
439 authorizing the municipal clerk or the municipal election  
440 commission to perform any of the duties required of the municipal  
441 executive committee pursuant to this section. Any agreement



442 entered into pursuant to this subsection shall be signed by the  
443 chair of the municipal executive committee and the municipal clerk  
444 or the chair of the municipal election commission, as appropriate.  
445 The municipal executive committee shall notify the state executive  
446 committee and the Secretary of State of the existence of the  
447 agreement.

448 (3) The board of supervisors and the municipal governing  
449 authority, in their discretion, may compensate poll managers who  
450 attend these training sessions. The compensation shall be at a  
451 rate of not less than the federal hourly minimum wage nor more  
452 than Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per hour. Poll managers shall not be  
453 compensated for more than sixteen (16) hours of attendance at the  
454 training sessions regardless of the actual amount of time that  
455 they attended the training sessions.

456 (4) The time and location of the training sessions required  
457 pursuant to this section shall be announced to the general public  
458 by posting a notice thereof at the courthouse and by delivering a  
459 copy of the notice to the office of a newspaper having general  
460 circulation in the county five (5) days before the date upon which  
461 the training session is to be conducted. Persons who will serve  
462 as poll watchers for candidates and political parties, as well as  
463 members of the general public, shall be allowed to attend the  
464 sessions.

465 (5) Subject to the following annual limitations, the  
466 election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in



467 the amount of \* \* \* One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), to be paid from  
468 the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than  
469 five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually  
470 employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time  
471 spent in conducting training sessions as required by this section:

472 (a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand  
473 (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
474 census, not more than five (5) days per year;

475 (b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000)  
476 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
477 less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the  
478 latest federal decennial census, not more than eight (8) days per  
479 year;

480 (c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000)  
481 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
482 less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the  
483 latest federal decennial census, not more than ten (10) days per  
484 year;

485 (d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000)  
486 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
487 less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the  
488 latest federal decennial census, not more than twelve (12) days  
489 per year;

490 (e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000)  
491 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but



492 less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents  
493 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
494 fifteen (15) days per year;

495 (f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand  
496 (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
497 census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents  
498 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
499 eighteen (18) days per year;

500 (g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000)  
501 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
502 less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents  
503 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
504 nineteen (19) days per year;

505 (h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand  
506 (225,000) residents or more according to the latest federal  
507 decennial census, not more than twenty-two (22) days per  
508 year \* \* \*.

509 (6) Election commissioners shall claim the per diem  
510 authorized in subsection (5) of this section in the manner  
511 provided for in Section 23-15-153(6).

512 (7) (a) To provide poll manager training, the Secretary of  
513 State has developed a single, comprehensive poll manager training  
514 program to ensure uniform, secure elections throughout the state.  
515 The program includes online training on all state and federal



516 election laws and procedures and voting machine opening and  
517 closing procedures.

518 (b) County election commissioners shall designate no  
519 more than two (2) poll managers per precinct, who shall  
520 individually access and complete the online training program,  
521 including all skills assessments, at least five (5) days before an  
522 election. The poll managers shall be defined as "certified poll  
523 managers," and entitled to a "Certificate of Completion" and  
524 compensation for the successful completion of the training and  
525 skills assessment in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)  
526 payable from the Help Mississippi Vote Fund. Compensation paid to  
527 any poll manager under this paragraph (b) shall not exceed  
528 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per calendar year.

529 (c) Every election held after January 1, 2018, shall  
530 have at least one (1) certified poll manager appointed by the  
531 county election officials to work in each polling place in the  
532 county during each general election.

533 **[From and after January 1, 2020, this section shall read as**  
534 **follows:]**

535 23-15-239. (1) The executive committee of each county, in  
536 the case of a primary election, or the election commissioners of  
537 each county, in the case of all other elections, in conjunction  
538 with the circuit clerk, shall, in the years in which counties  
539 conduct an election, sponsor and conduct, not less than five (5)  
540 days before each election, not less than four (4) hours and not



541 more than eight (8) hours of poll manager training to instruct  
542 poll managers as to their duties in the proper administration of  
543 the election and the operation of the polling place. Any poll  
544 manager who completes the online training course provided by the  
545 Secretary of State shall only be required to complete two (2)  
546 hours of in-person poll manager training. No poll manager shall  
547 serve in any election unless he or she has received these  
548 instructions once during the twelve (12) months immediately  
549 preceding the date upon which the election is held; however,  
550 nothing in this section shall prevent the appointment of an  
551 alternate poll manager to fill a vacancy in case of an emergency.  
552 The county executive committee or the election commissioners, as  
553 appropriate, shall train a sufficient number of alternates to  
554 serve in the event a poll manager is unable to serve for any  
555 reason.

556       (2) (a) If it is eligible under Section 23-15-266, the  
557 county executive committee may enter into a written agreement with  
558 the circuit clerk or the county election commission authorizing  
559 the circuit clerk or the county election commission to perform any  
560 of the duties required of the county executive committee pursuant  
561 to this section. Any agreement entered into pursuant to this  
562 subsection shall be signed by the chair of the county executive  
563 committee and the circuit clerk or the chair of the county  
564 election commission, as appropriate. The county executive



565 committee shall notify the state executive committee and the  
566 Secretary of State of the existence of the agreement.

567 (b) If it is eligible under Section 23-15-266, the  
568 municipal executive committee may enter into a written agreement  
569 with the municipal clerk or the municipal election commission  
570 authorizing the municipal clerk or the municipal election  
571 commission to perform any of the duties required of the municipal  
572 executive committee pursuant to this section. Any agreement  
573 entered into pursuant to this subsection shall be signed by the  
574 chair of the municipal executive committee and the municipal clerk  
575 or the chair of the municipal election commission, as appropriate.  
576 The municipal executive committee shall notify the state executive  
577 committee and the Secretary of State of the existence of the  
578 agreement.

579 (3) The board of supervisors and the municipal governing  
580 authority, in their discretion, may compensate poll managers who  
581 attend these training sessions. The compensation shall be at a  
582 rate of not less than the federal hourly minimum wage nor more  
583 than Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per hour. Poll managers shall not be  
584 compensated for more than sixteen (16) hours of attendance at the  
585 training sessions regardless of the actual amount of time that  
586 they attended the training sessions.

587 (4) The time and location of the training sessions required  
588 pursuant to this section shall be announced to the general public  
589 by posting a notice thereof at the courthouse and by delivering a





590 copy of the notice to the office of a newspaper having general  
591 circulation in the county five (5) days before the date upon which  
592 the training session is to be conducted. Persons who will serve  
593 as poll watchers for candidates and political parties, as well as  
594 members of the general public, shall be allowed to attend the  
595 sessions.

596 (5) Subject to the following annual limitations, the  
597 election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in  
598 the amount of \* \* \* One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), to be paid from  
599 the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than  
600 five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually  
601 employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time  
602 spent in conducting training sessions as required by this section:

603 (a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand  
604 (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
605 census, not more than five (5) days per year;

606 (b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000)  
607 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
608 less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the  
609 latest federal decennial census, not more than eight (8) days per  
610 year;

611 (c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000)  
612 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
613 less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the



614 latest federal decennial census, not more than ten (10) days per  
615 year;

616 (d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000)  
617 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
618 less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the  
619 latest federal decennial census, not more than twelve (12) days  
620 per year;

621 (e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000)  
622 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
623 less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents  
624 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
625 fifteen (15) days per year;

626 (f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand  
627 (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
628 census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents  
629 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
630 eighteen (18) days per year;

631 (g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000)  
632 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
633 less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents  
634 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
635 nineteen (19) days per year;

636 (h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand  
637 (225,000) residents or more according to the latest federal



638 decennial census, not more than twenty-two (22) days per  
639 year \* \* \*.

640 (6) Election commissioners shall claim the per diem  
641 authorized in subsection (5) of this section in the manner  
642 provided for in Section 23-15-153(6).

643 (7) (a) To provide poll manager training, the Secretary of  
644 State has developed a single, comprehensive poll manager training  
645 program to ensure uniform, secure elections throughout the state.  
646 The program includes online training on all state and federal  
647 election laws and procedures and voting machine opening and  
648 closing procedures.

649 (b) County poll managers who individually access and  
650 complete the online training program, including all skills  
651 assessments, at least five (5) days before an election shall be  
652 defined as "certified poll manager," and entitled to a  
653 "Certificate of Completion."

654 (c) At least one (1) certified poll manager shall be  
655 appointed by the county election officials to work in each polling  
656 place in the county during each general election.

657 **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-211, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
658 brought forward as follows:

659 23-15-211. (1) There shall be a State Board of Election  
660 Commissioners to consist of the following members:

661 (a) The Governor, who shall serve as chair;



662 (b) The Secretary of State, who shall serve as  
663 secretary, maintain minutes of all meetings and accept service of  
664 process on behalf of the board; and

665 (c) The Attorney General.

666 Any two (2) of the members of the State Board of Election  
667 Commissioners may perform the duties required of the board.

668 (2) The duties of the board shall include, but not be  
669 limited to, the following:

670 (a) Ruling on a candidate's qualifications to run for  
671 statewide, Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, congressional  
672 district, circuit and chancery court district, and other state  
673 district offices;

674 (b) Approving the state ballot for the offices stated  
675 in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2);

676 (c) Removing the names of candidates from the ballot  
677 for failure to comply with campaign finance filing requirements  
678 for the offices stated in paragraph (a) of this subsection (2) in  
679 previous election cycles; and

680 (d) Adopting any administrative rules and regulations  
681 as are necessary to carry out the statutory duties of the board.

682 (3) The board of supervisors of each county shall pay  
683 members of the county election commission for attending training  
684 events a per diem in the amount provided in Section 23-15-153;  
685 however, except as otherwise provided in this section, the per  
686 diem shall not be paid to an election commissioner for more than



687 twelve (12) days of training per year and shall only be paid to  
688 election commissioners who actually attend and complete a training  
689 event and obtain a training certificate.

690 (4) Included in this twelve (12) days shall be an elections  
691 seminar, conducted and sponsored by the Secretary of State.  
692 Election commissioners and chairpersons of each political party  
693 executive committee, or their designee, shall be required to  
694 attend. An election commissioner shall be certified by the  
695 Secretary of State only after attending the annual elections  
696 seminar and satisfactorily completing the skills assessment  
697 provided for in Section 23-15-213.

698 (5) Each participant shall receive a certificate from the  
699 Secretary of State indicating that the named participant has  
700 received the elections training seminar instruction and  
701 satisfactorily completed the skills assessment provided for in  
702 Section 23-15-213. Election commissioners shall annually file the  
703 certificate with the chancery clerk. If any election commissioner  
704 shall fail to file the certificate by April 30 of each year, his  
705 or her office shall be vacated, absent exigent circumstances as  
706 determined by the board of supervisors and consistent with the  
707 facts. The vacancy shall be declared by the board of supervisors  
708 and the vacancy shall be filled in the manner described by law.  
709 Before declaring the office vacant, the board of supervisors shall  
710 give the election commissioner notice and the opportunity for a  
711 hearing.



712           (6) The Secretary of State, upon approval of the board of  
713 supervisors, may authorize not more than eight (8) additional  
714 training days per year for election commissioners in one or more  
715 counties. The board of supervisors of each county shall pay  
716 members of the county election commission for attending training  
717 on these days a per diem in the amount provided in Section  
718 23-15-153.

719           **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-225, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
720 brought forward as follows:

721           23-15-225. (1) The registrar shall be entitled to such  
722 compensation, payable monthly out of the county treasury, which  
723 the board of supervisors of the county shall allow on an annual  
724 basis in the following amounts:

725           (a) For counties with a total population of more than  
726 two hundred thousand (200,000), an amount not to exceed  
727 Twenty-nine Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$29,900.00), but not  
728 less than Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$9,200.00).

729           (b) For counties with a total population of more than  
730 one hundred thousand (100,000) and not more than two hundred  
731 thousand (200,000), an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand  
732 Three Hundred Dollars (\$25,300.00), but not less than Nine  
733 Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$9,200.00).

734           (c) For counties with a total population of more than  
735 fifty thousand (50,000) and not more than one hundred thousand  
736 (100,000), an amount not to exceed Twenty-three Thousand Dollars



737 (\$23,000.00), but not less than Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars  
738 (\$9,200.00).

739 (d) For counties with a total population of more than  
740 thirty-five thousand (35,000) and not more than fifty thousand  
741 (50,000), an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred  
742 Dollars (\$20,700.00), but not less than Nine Thousand Two Hundred  
743 Dollars (\$9,200.00).

744 (e) For counties with a total population of more than  
745 twenty-five thousand (25,000) and not more than thirty-five  
746 thousand (35,000), an amount not to exceed Eighteen Thousand Four  
747 Hundred Dollars (\$18,400.00), but not less than Nine Thousand Two  
748 Hundred Dollars (\$9,200.00).

749 (f) For counties with a total population of more than  
750 fifteen thousand (15,000) and not more than twenty-five thousand  
751 (25,000), an amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand One Hundred  
752 Dollars (\$16,100.00), but not less than Nine Thousand Two Hundred  
753 Dollars (\$9,200.00).

754 (g) For counties with a total population of more than  
755 ten thousand (10,000) and not more than fifteen thousand (15,000),  
756 an amount not to exceed Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars  
757 (\$13,800.00), but not less than Eight Thousand Fifty Dollars  
758 (\$8,050.00).

759 (h) For counties with a total population of more than  
760 six thousand (6,000) and not more than ten thousand (10,000), an  
761 amount not to exceed Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars



762 (\$11,500.00), but not less than Eight Thousand Fifty Dollars  
763 (\$8,050.00).

764 (i) For counties with a total population of not more  
765 than six thousand (6,000), an amount not to exceed Nine Thousand  
766 Two Hundred Dollars (\$9,200.00) but not less than Six Thousand  
767 Three Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$6,325.00).

768 (j) For counties having two (2) judicial districts, the  
769 board of supervisors of the county may allow, in addition to the  
770 sums prescribed herein, in its discretion, an amount not to exceed  
771 Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$11,500.00).

772 (2) In the event of a reregistration within such county, or  
773 a redistricting that necessitates the hiring of additional deputy  
774 registrars, the board of supervisors, in its discretion, may by  
775 contract compensate the county registrar amounts in addition to  
776 the sums prescribed herein.

777 (3) As compensation for their services in assisting the  
778 county election commissioners in performance of their duties in  
779 the revision of the voter roll as electronically maintained by the  
780 Statewide Elections Management System and in assisting the  
781 election commissioners, executive committees or boards of  
782 supervisors in connection with any election, the registrar shall  
783 receive the same daily per diem and limitation on meeting days as  
784 provided for the board of election commissioners as set out in  
785 Sections 23-15-153 and 23-15-227 to be paid from the general fund  
786 of the county.





787 (4) In any case where an amount has been allowed by the  
788 board of supervisors pursuant to this section, such amount shall  
789 not be reduced or terminated during the term for which the  
790 registrar was elected.

791 (5) The circuit clerk shall, in addition to any other  
792 compensation provided for by law, be entitled to receive as  
793 compensation from the board of supervisors the amount of Two  
794 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) per year. This payment  
795 shall be for the performance of his or her duties in regard to the  
796 conduct of elections and the performance of his or her other  
797 duties.

798 (6) The municipal clerk shall, in addition to any other  
799 compensation for performance of duties, be eligible to receive as  
800 compensation from the municipality's governing authorities a  
801 reasonable amount of additional compensation for reimbursement of  
802 costs and for additional duties associated with mail-in  
803 registration of voters.

804 (7) The board of supervisors shall not allow any additional  
805 compensation authorized under this section for services as county  
806 registrar to any circuit clerk who is receiving fees as  
807 compensation for his or her services equal to the limitation on  
808 compensation prescribed in Section 9-1-43.

809 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
810 and after July 1, 2018.

