

By: Senator(s) Doty

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2298

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS AND CIRCUIT CLERKS  
2 OR COUNTY REGISTRARS TO APPROVE THE USE OF DIRECT RECORDING  
3 ELECTRONIC VOTING UNITS AND OPTICAL MARK READING EQUIPMENT FOR  
4 ABSENTEE VOTING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
7 and with the approval of the board of supervisors and the circuit  
8 clerk or county registrar, Direct Recording Electronic (DRE)  
9 voting units and Optical Mark Reading (OMR) equipment may be used  
10 to allow absentee electors to vote during the absentee voting  
11 period.

12 (2) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and  
13 regulations as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this act,  
14 including the following:

15 (a) The instructions and procedures for the safe and  
16 efficient use of DRE voting units and OMR equipment for absentee  
17 voting; and



18                   (b) The process for examining, counting and rejecting  
19 ballots in elections in which DRE voting units and OMR equipment  
20 are used to accept ballots during the absentee voting period.

21           (3) Absentee electors shall have the right to vote by paper  
22 ballot in elections in which a DRE voting unit or OMR equipment is  
23 used during the absentee voting period.

24           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
25 and after July 1, 2018.

