

By: Representative Anderson

To: Universities and
Colleges; Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1346

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A VOTING PRECINCT TO BE LOCATED ON THE
2 CAMPUS OF EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR POSTSECONDARY
3 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH VOTING
4 PRECINCT SHALL BE USED BY STUDENTS WHO ARE DULY ENROLLED IN A
5 PROGRAM OF STUDY AND RESIDE ON THE CAMPUS OF THE POSTSECONDARY
6 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING WHERE THE VOTING PRECINCT IS
7 LOCATED OR WHO RESIDE IN OFF-CAMPUS INSTITUTIONAL HOUSING; TO
8 REQUIRE THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE GOVERNING
9 AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY WHEREIN THE POSTSECONDARY
10 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IS LOCATED TO WORK WITH THE
11 INSTITUTION'S ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP AND THE OFFICE OF THE
12 SECRETARY OF STATE TO ENSURE THAT A VOTING PRECINCT IS LOCATED ON
13 THE MAIN CAMPUS OF SUCH POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS; TO REQUIRE THE
14 GOVERNING AND ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE
15 LOCATING OF VOTER PRECINCTS ON THE CAMPUS OF CERTAIN POSTSECONDARY
16 INSTITUTIONS TO HAVE DESIGNATED THE ON-CAMPUS VOTING PRECINCT BY
17 SEPTEMBER 15, 2019, AND TO PROVIDE REASONABLE NOTICE OF ITS
18 LOCATION THROUGH CERTAIN METHODS OF PUBLICATION; TO PROVIDE THAT
19 ANY STUDENT DULY ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM OF STUDY AT PUBLIC OR
20 PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING AND
21 RESIDES ON CAMPUS OF THE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
22 LEARNING WHERE THE VOTING PRECINCT IS LOCATED OR WHO RESIDE IN
23 OFF-CAMPUS INSTITUTIONAL HOUSING SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE
24 ON-CAMPUS VOTING PRECINCT PROVIDED THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE
25 MET; TO PRESCRIBE THE QUALIFICATION CONDITIONS THAT MAKE STUDENTS
26 ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT ON-CAMPUS VOTING PRECINCTS; TO BRING FORWARD
27 SECTIONS 23-15-11, 23-15-13, 23-15-33 AND 23-15-35, MISSISSIPPI
28 CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND
29 SECTION 23-15-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE COUNTY
30 REGISTRAR TO FURNISH MAIL-IN VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO
31 EACH ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN A
32 REASONABLE TIME TO ENABLE UNREGISTERED STUDENTS WHO ARE EIGHTEEN
33 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER TO BE ABLE TO VOTE IN PRIMARY AND GENERAL
34 ELECTIONS; TO REQUIRE EACH ELIGIBLE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION OF



HIGHER LEARNING TO PERMIT ACCESS TO THE COUNTY REGISTRAR TO REGISTER ELIGIBLE VOTERS AND TO PROVIDE VOTER EDUCATION; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 23-15-39, 23-15-41, 23-15-43, 23-15-45, 23-15-47 AND 23-15-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-281, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 23-15-283 AND 23-15-285, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-557, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 23-15-563, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) There shall be located, on the campus of each public or private four-year postsecondary institution of higher learning, a voting precinct to be used by students who are duly enrolled in a program of study and reside on the campus of the postsecondary institution of higher learning where the voting precinct is located or who reside in off-campus institutional housing. It shall be the responsibility of the county board of supervisors and the governing authority of the municipality wherein the postsecondary institution of higher learning is located, working with the institution's administrative leadership and the Office of the Secretary of State to ensure that a voting precinct is located on the main campus of such postsecondary institution.

(2) To facilitate unrestricted access to voting, the entities required under subsection (1) of this section to ensure the placement of a voting precinct on the campuses of eligible postsecondary institutions of higher learning shall have taken the necessary actions to designate the on-campus location by September



15, 2019, and further provide reasonable notice to the student body of the voting precinct through publication on the institution's website, the student body email listserve and in a newspaper having regular circulation in the municipality and county wherein the institution is located.

SECTION 2. Any student duly enrolled in a program of study at a public or private four-year postsecondary institution of higher learning and resides on campus of the postsecondary institution of higher learning where the voting precinct is located or who reside in off-campus institutional housing shall be eligible to vote at the on-campus voting precinct provided that the student:

- (a) Is at least eighteen (18) years old;
- (b) Meets the age and residency requirements specified in Section 23-15-11;
- (c) Has been duly registered as an elector under Section 23-15-33 with the clerk of the municipality in accordance with Section 23-15-35, using the registration application form prescribed in Sections 23-15-39 and 23-15-47;
- (d) Has chosen to use his or her campus address or off-campus institutional housing address as his or her sole registered voting address;
- (e) Is not excluded from voting by having committed vote fraud or any other disenfranchising crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890;



(f) If previously registered, in state or out of state, has changed his or her residency in accordance with the methods prescribed under Section 23-15-13 or 23-15-49; and

(f) Possesses the required voter identification required under Section 23-15-563.

SECTION 3. Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-11. Every inhabitant of this state, except persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, who is a citizen of the United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards, who has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she seeks to vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in which he or she seeks to vote, and who has been duly registered as an elector under Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of vote fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, shall be a qualified elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his or her residence, and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon compliance with Section 23-15-563. If the thirtieth day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration applications submitted on the business day immediately following the Sunday or legal holiday shall be accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election. Any person who will be



116 eighteen (18) years of age or older on or before the date of the
117 general election and who is duly registered to vote not less than
118 thirty (30) days before the primary election associated with the
119 general election, may vote in the primary election even though the
120 person has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time
121 that the person seeks to vote at the primary election. No others
122 than those specified in this section shall be entitled, or shall
123 be allowed, to vote at any election.

124 **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
125 brought forward as follows:

126 23-15-13. (1) An elector who moves from one (1) ward or
127 voting precinct to another ward within the same municipality or
128 voting precinct within the same county shall not be disqualified
129 to vote, but he or she shall be entitled to have his or her
130 registration transferred to his or her new ward or voting precinct
131 upon making written request therefor at any time up to thirty (30)
132 days before the election at which he or she offers to vote, and if
133 the removal occurs within thirty (30) days of such election he or
134 she shall be entitled to vote in his or her new ward or voting
135 precinct by affidavit ballot as provided in Section 23-15-573. If
136 the thirtieth day to transfer the elector's registration before an
137 election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, the transfer of the
138 elector's registration submitted on the business day immediately
139 following the Sunday or legal holiday shall be accepted and



entered into the Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election.

(2) If an elector requests a change in his or her address under Section 23-15-49 and the address is located in a precinct in the county or municipality that differs from the precinct as reflected in the then current registration records, the request shall be treated in the same manner as a written request to transfer the elector's registration under subsection (1) of this section.

SECTION 5. Section 23-15-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-33. (1) Every person entitled to be registered as an elector in compliance with the laws of this state and who has signed his or her name on and properly completed the application for registration to vote shall be registered by the county registrar in the voting precinct of the residence of such person through the Statewide Elections Management System.

(2) Every person entitled to be registered as an elector in compliance with the laws of this state and who registers to vote pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 shall be registered by the county registrar in the voting precinct of the residence of such person through the Statewide Elections Management System.

SECTION 6. Section 23-15-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:



23-15-35. (1) The clerk of the municipality shall be the registrar of voters of the municipality, and shall take the oath of office prescribed by Section 268 of the Constitution. The municipal registration shall conform to the county registration which shall be a part of the official record of registered voters as contained in the Statewide Elections Management System. The municipal clerk shall comply with all the provisions of law regarding the registration of voters, including the use of the voter registration applications used by county registrars and prescribed by the Secretary of State under Sections 23-15-39 and 23-15-47.

(2) The municipal clerk shall be authorized to register applicants as county electors. The municipal clerk shall forward notice of registration, a copy of the application for registration, and any changes to the registration when they occur, either by certified mail to the county registrar or by personal delivery to the county registrar provided that a numbered receipt is signed by the county registrar in return for the described documents. Upon receipt of the copy of the application for registration or changes to the registration, and if a review of the application indicates that the applicant meets all the criteria necessary to qualify as a county elector, then the county registrar shall make a determination of the county voting precinct in which the person making the application shall be required to vote. The county registrar shall send this county voting precinct



190 information by United States first-class mail, postage prepaid, to
191 the person at the address provided on the application. Any
192 mailing costs incurred by the municipal clerk or the county
193 registrar in effectuating this subsection (2) shall be paid by the
194 county board of supervisors. If a review of the copy of the
195 application for registration or changes to the registration
196 indicates that the applicant is not qualified to vote in the
197 county, the county registrar shall challenge the application. The
198 county election commissioners shall review any challenge or
199 disqualification, after having notified the applicant by certified
200 mail of the challenge or disqualification.

201 (3) The municipal clerk shall issue to the person making the
202 application a copy of the application and the county registrar
203 shall process the application in accordance with the law regarding
204 the handling of voter registration applications.

205 (4) The receipt of a copy of the application for
206 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-39(3) shall be
207 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector
208 in the municipality, provided that such application is not
209 challenged as provided for therein.

210 (5) The municipal clerk of each municipality shall provide
211 the county registrar in which the municipality is located the
212 information necessary to conform the municipal registration to the
213 county registration which shall be a part of the official record
214 of registered voters as contained in the Statewide Elections



Management System. If any changes to the information occur as a result of redistricting, annexation or other reason, it shall be the responsibility of the municipal clerk to timely provide the changes to the county registrar.

SECTION 7. Section 23-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall register the electors of his or her county at any time during regular office hours.

(2) The county registrar may keep his or her office open to register voters from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., including the noon hour, for the five (5) business days immediately preceding the thirtieth day before any regularly scheduled primary or general election. The county registrar shall also keep his or her office open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding the thirtieth day before any regularly scheduled primary or general election, unless that Saturday falls on a legal holiday, in which case registration applications submitted on the Monday immediately following the legal holiday shall be accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling such voters to vote in the next primary or general election.

(3) The registrar, or any deputy registrar duly appointed by law, may visit and spend such time as he or she may deem necessary at any location in his or her county, selected by the registrar



not less than thirty (30) days before an election, for the purpose of registering voters.

(4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such disability may contact the registrar and request that the registrar or the registrar's deputy visit him or her for the purpose of registering such person to vote. The registrar or the registrar's deputy shall visit that person as soon as possible after such request and provide the person with an application for registration, if necessary. The completed application for registration shall be executed in the presence of the registrar or the registrar's deputy.

(5) (a) In the fall and spring of each year the registrar of each county shall furnish all public schools and all public and private four-year postsecondary institutions of higher learning with mail-in voter registration applications. The applications shall be provided in a reasonable time to enable those students who will be eighteen (18) years of age before a general election, or who are eighteen (18) years of age and older and are not registered voters, to be able to vote in the primary and general elections.

(b) Each public school district shall permit access to all public schools of this state and each public and private four-year postsecondary institutions of higher learning shall permit access to all campuses under its jurisdiction in this state



for the county registrar or the county registrar's deputy to register persons who are eligible to vote and to provide voter education.

SECTION 8. Section 23-15-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

(3) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county of registration, the county registrar shall process the application for registration or changes to the registration as provided by law.

(4) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or she has previously registered to vote in another county of this state or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of registration in this state shall be provided by the Statewide Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the



voter's previous state of residence if the Statewide Elections Management System has that capability.

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

(6) Any person desiring an application for registration may secure an application from the registrar of the county of which he or she is a resident and may take the application with him or her and secure assistance in completing the application from any person of the applicant's choice. It shall be the duty of all registrars to furnish applications for registration to all persons requesting them, and it shall likewise be the registrar's duty to furnish aid and assistance in the completing of the application when requested by an applicant. The application for registration shall be sworn to and subscribed before the registrar or deputy registrar at the municipal clerk's office, the county registrar's office or any other location where the applicant is allowed to register to vote. The registrar shall not charge a fee or cost to the applicant for accepting the application or administering the



313 oath or for any other duty imposed by law regarding the
314 registration of electors.

315 (7) If the person making the application is unable to read
316 or write, for reason of disability or otherwise, he or she shall
317 not be required to personally complete the application in writing
318 and execute the oath. In such cases, the registrar or deputy
319 registrar shall read the application and oath to the person and
320 the person's answers thereto shall be recorded by the registrar or
321 the registrar's deputy. The person shall be registered as an
322 elector if he or she otherwise meets the requirements to be
323 registered as an elector. The registrar shall record the
324 responses of the person and the recorded responses shall be
325 retained permanently by the registrar. The county registrar shall
326 enter the voter registration information into the Statewide
327 Elections Management System and designate the entry as an assisted
328 filing.

329 (8) The receipt of a copy of the application for
330 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-35(2) shall be
331 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector
332 of this state, if the application is not challenged.

333 (9) In any case in which the corporate boundaries of a
334 municipality change, whether by annexation or redistricting, the
335 municipal clerk shall, within ten (10) days after approval of the
336 change in corporate boundaries, provide to the county registrar
337 conforming geographic data that is compatible with the Statewide



Elections Management System. The data shall be developed by the municipality's use of a standardized format specified by the Statewide Elections Management System. The county registrar, county election commissioner or other county official, who has completed an annual training seminar sponsored by the Secretary of State pertaining to the implementation of new boundary lines in the Statewide Elections Management System and received certification for that training, shall update the municipal boundary information into the Statewide Elections Management System. The Statewide Elections Management System updates the municipal voter registration records and assigns electors to their municipal voting precincts. The county registrar shall forward to the municipal clerk written notification of the additions and changes, and the municipal clerk shall forward to the affected municipal electors written notification of the additions and changes.

SECTION 9. Section 23-15-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-41. (1) When an applicant to register to vote has completed the application form as prescribed by administrative rule, the county registrar shall enter the applicant's information into the Statewide Elections Management System where the applicant's status will be marked as "ACTIVE," "PENDING" or "REJECTED," and the applicant shall be entitled to register upon his or her request for registration made in person to the



363 registrar, or deputy registrar if a deputy registrar has been
364 appointed. No person other than the registrar, or a deputy
365 registrar, shall register any applicant.

366 (2) If an applicant is not qualified to register to vote,
367 then the registrar shall enter the applicant's information into
368 the Statewide Elections Management System and mark the applicant's
369 status as "PENDING" or "REJECTED," with the specific reason or
370 reasons for that status noted. The registrar shall notify the
371 election commission of those applicants rejected.

372 **SECTION 10.** Section 23-15-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
373 brought forward as follows:

374 23-15-43. In the event an applicant is not registered, there
375 shall be an automatic review by the county election commissioners
376 under the procedures provided in Sections 23-15-61 through
377 23-15-79. In addition to the meetings of the election
378 commissioners provided in those sections, the commissioners are
379 required to hold such additional meetings to determine all pending
380 cases of registration on review before the election at which the
381 applicant desires to vote.

382 It is not the purpose of this section to indicate the
383 decision that should be reached by the election commissioners in
384 certain cases but to define which applicants should receive
385 further examination by providing for an automatic review.

386 **SECTION 11.** Section 23-15-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
387 brought forward as follows:



23-15-45. In the event that registration is denied pending automatic review by the county election commissioners, the registrar shall immediately inform the applicant that the registration is denied and advise the applicant of the date, time and place of the next meeting of the county election commissioners, at which time the applicant may present such evidence either in person or in writing as he deems pertinent to the question of residency.

SECTION 12. Section 23-15-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-47. (1) Any person who is qualified to register to vote in the State of Mississippi may register to vote by mail-in application in the manner prescribed in this section.

(2) The following procedure shall be used in the registration of electors by mail:

(a) Any qualified elector may register to vote by mailing or delivering a completed mail-in application to his or her county registrar at least thirty (30) days before any election; however, if the thirtieth day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration applications submitted on the business day immediately following the Sunday or legal holiday shall be accepted and entered into the Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election. The postmark date of a mailed application shall be the applicant's date of registration.



413 (b) Upon receipt of a mail-in application, the county
414 registrar shall stamp the application with the date of receipt,
415 and shall verify the application either by matching the
416 applicant's Mississippi driver's license number through the
417 Mississippi Department of Public Safety or by matching the
418 applicant's social security number through the American
419 Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Within fourteen (14)
420 days of receipt of a mail-in registration application, the county
421 registrar shall complete action on the application, including any
422 attempts to notify the applicant of the status of his or her
423 application.

424 (c) If the county registrar determines that the
425 applicant is qualified and his or her application is legible and
426 complete, the county registrar shall mail the applicant written
427 notification that the application has been approved, specifying
428 the county voting precinct, municipal voting precinct, if any,
429 polling place and supervisor district in which the person shall
430 vote. This written notification of approval containing the
431 specified information shall be the voter's registration card. The
432 registration card shall be provided by the county registrar to the
433 applicant in accordance with Section 23-15-39. Upon entry of the
434 voter registration information into the Statewide Elections
435 Management System, the system shall assign a voter registration
436 number to the applicant. The assigned voter registration number
437 shall be clearly shown on the written notification of approval.



In mailing the written notification, the county registrar shall note the following on the envelope: "DO NOT FORWARD". If any registration notification form is returned as undeliverable, the voter's registration shall be void.

(d) A mail-in application shall be rejected for any of the following reasons:

(i) An incomplete portion of the application makes it impossible for the registrar to determine the eligibility of the applicant to register;

(ii) A portion of the application is illegible in the opinion of the county registrar and makes it impossible to determine the eligibility of the applicant to register;

(iii) The county registrar is unable to determine, from the address and information stated on the application, the precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the supervisor district in which he or she is entitled to vote;

(iv) The applicant is not qualified to register to vote pursuant to Section 23-15-11;

(v) The county registrar determines that the applicant is already registered as a qualified elector of the county;

(vi) The county registrar is unable to verify the application pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section.

(e) If the mail-in application of a person is subject to rejection for any of the reasons set forth in paragraph (d)(i)



463 through (iii) of this subsection, and it appears to the county
464 registrar that the defect or omission is of such a minor nature
465 and that any necessary additional information may be supplied by
466 the applicant over the telephone or by further correspondence, the
467 county registrar may write or call the applicant at the telephone
468 number or address, or both, provided on the application. If the
469 county registrar is able to contact the applicant by mail or
470 telephone, the county registrar shall attempt to ascertain the
471 necessary information, and if this information is sufficient for
472 the registrar to complete the application, the applicant shall be
473 registered. If the necessary information cannot be obtained by
474 mail or telephone, or is not sufficient to complete the
475 application within fourteen (14) days of receipt, the county
476 registrar shall give the applicant written notice of the rejection
477 and provide the reason for the rejection. The county registrar
478 shall further inform the applicant that he or she has a right to
479 attempt to register by appearing in person or by filing another
480 mail-in application.

481 (f) If a mail-in application is subject to rejection
482 for the reason stated in paragraph (d)(v) of this subsection and
483 the "present home address" portion of the application is different
484 from the residence address for the applicant found in the
485 Statewide Elections Management System, the mail-in application
486 shall be deemed a written request to update the voter's
487 registration pursuant to Section 23-15-13. The county registrar



488 or the election commissioners shall update the voter's residence
489 address in the Statewide Elections Management System and, if
490 necessary, advise the voter of a change in the location of his or
491 her county or municipal polling place by mailing the voter a new
492 voter registration card.

493 (3) The instructions and the application form for voter
494 registration by mail shall be in a form established by rule duly
495 adopted by the Secretary of State.

496 (4) (a) The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish
497 without charge the necessary forms for application for voter
498 registration by mail to each county registrar, municipal clerk,
499 all public schools, each private school that requests such
500 applications, and all public libraries.

501 (b) The Secretary of State shall distribute without
502 charge sufficient forms for application for voter registration by
503 mail to the Commissioner of Public Safety, who shall distribute
504 the forms to each driver's license examining and renewal station
505 in the state, and shall ensure that the forms are regularly
506 available to the public at such stations.

507 (c) Bulk quantities of forms for application for voter
508 registration by mail shall be furnished by the Secretary of State
509 to any person or organization. The Secretary of State shall
510 charge a person or organization the actual cost he or she incurs
511 in providing bulk quantities of forms for application for voter
512 registration to such person or organization.



(5) The originals of completed mail-in applications shall remain on file in the office of the county registrar with copies retained in the Statewide Elections Management System.

(6) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county of registration, the county registrar shall enter the information into the Statewide Elections Management System.

(7) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or she has previously registered to vote in another county of this state or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of registration in this state shall be provided through the Statewide Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the voter's previous state of residence.

(8) Any person who attempts to register to vote by mail shall be subject to the penalties for false registration provided for in Section 23-15-17.

SECTION 13. Section 23-15-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-49. (1) (a) The Secretary of State shall, with the support of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, establish a secure Internet website to permit registered electors to change their name, address or other information set forth in the elector's existing voter registration record.



537 (b) Upon the request of an elector through the secure
538 website, the software used by the Secretary of State for
539 processing applications through the website shall provide for
540 verification that:

541 (i) The elector has a current and valid
542 Mississippi driver's license or photo identification card issued
543 by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and the number for
544 that driver's license or photo identification card provided by the
545 applicant matches the number for the elector's driver's license or
546 photo identification card that is on file with the Mississippi
547 Department of Public Safety;

548 (ii) The name and date of birth provided by the
549 voter matches the name and date of birth that is on file with the
550 Mississippi Department of Public Safety; and

551 (iii) The information provided by the elector
552 matches the information on file with the Mississippi Department of
553 Public Safety.

554 If any of the information does not match that on file with
555 the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the changes shall be
556 rejected.

557 (2) Any person who attempts to change registration
558 information under this section shall be subject to the penalties
559 for false registration provided for in Section 97-13-25.

560 (3) The Secretary of State and the Department of Public
561 Safety shall enter into a memorandum of understanding providing



for the sharing of information required to facilitate the requirements of this section.

SECTION 14. Section 23-15-281, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-281. (1) Each county shall be divided into supervisors districts, which shall be the same as those for the election of members of the board of supervisors, and may be subdivided thereafter into voting precincts; and there shall be only one (1) voting place in each voting precinct, except that in any county wherein is located any public or private four-year postsecondary institution of higher learning, the board of supervisors and the appropriate municipal governing authority, working with the institution's administrative leadership and the Office of the Secretary of State, shall ensure that a voting precinct is located on the main campus of such postsecondary institution of higher learning. Provided, however, that such boundaries, if altered, shall conform to visible natural or artificial boundaries such as streets, highways, railroads, rivers, lakes, bayous or other obvious lines of demarcation except county lines and municipal corporate limits. The board of supervisors shall notify the Office of the Secretary of State of the boundary of each supervisors district and voting precinct as then fixed and shall provide the office a legal description and a map of each supervisors district and voting precinct and shall indicate the voting place in each such district. The board of



supervisors shall also ensure the legal description and map of each supervisors district is available in the circuit clerk's office for public inspection.

(2) The board of supervisors is authorized, by order spread upon the minutes of the board setting forth the cost and source of funds therefor, to purchase improved or unimproved property and to construct, reconstruct, repair, renovate and maintain polling places, or to pay to private property owners reasonable rental fees when the property is used as a polling place for a period not to exceed the day immediately preceding the election, the day of the election, and the day immediately following the election. On or before May 1, 2019, the county board of supervisors shall ensure each polling place is accessible to all voters, structurally sound, capable of providing air conditioning and heating and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(3) All facilities owned or leased by the state, county, municipality, * * * school district or postsecondary institution, as described in subsection (1) of this section, may be made available at no cost to the board of supervisors for use as polling places to such extent as may be agreed to by the authority having control or custody of these facilities.

SECTION 15. Section 23-15-283, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

23-15-283. (1) The board of supervisors shall have power to alter the boundaries of the supervisors districts, voting



612 precincts and the voting place therein. If the board of
613 supervisors orders a change in the boundaries, they shall notify
614 the election commissioners, who shall at once cause the voter
615 rolls as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections
616 Management System of voting precincts affected by the order to be
617 changed to conform to the change so as to contain only the names
618 of the qualified electors in the voting precincts as made by the
619 change of boundaries. Upon the order of change in the boundaries
620 of any voting precinct or the voting place therein, the board of
621 supervisors shall notify the Office of the Secretary of State and
622 provide the Office of the Secretary of State a legal description
623 and a map of any boundary change. No change shall be implemented
624 or enforced until the requirements of this section have been met.

625 (2) Only officials certified by the Secretary of State shall
626 be authorized to implement boundary line changes in the Statewide
627 Elections Management System. The training and certification
628 required under this subsection (2) shall be available to the
629 circuit clerk, county election commissioners or any other
630 individual designated by the board of supervisors to be
631 responsible for implementing boundary line changes into the
632 Statewide Elections Management System.

633 (3) Any governmental entity authorized to adopt, amend or
634 change boundary lines shall immediately forward all changed
635 boundary lines to the appropriate circuit clerk, who shall, if
636 authorized under subsection (2), implement the boundary line



637 changes in the Statewide Elections Management System. If the
638 circuit clerk is not the appropriate person to implement the
639 boundary line changes, the clerk shall immediately forward a copy
640 of all materials to the appropriate person. Copies of any
641 boundary line changes within the county shall be maintained in the
642 office of the circuit clerk and made available for public
643 inspection. No change shall be implemented or enforced until the
644 requirements of this section have been met.

645 **SECTION 16.** Section 23-15-285, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
646 brought forward as follows:

647 23-15-285. The board of supervisors shall cause an entry to
648 be made on the minutes of the board at some meeting, as early as
649 convenient, defining the boundaries of the several supervisors
650 districts and voting precincts in the county, and designating the
651 voting place in each voting precinct; and as soon as practicable
652 after any change is made in any supervisors district, voting
653 precinct or any voting place, the board of supervisors shall cause
654 the change to be entered on the minutes of the board in such
655 manner as to be easily understood. The changed boundaries shall
656 conform to visible natural or artificial boundaries such as
657 streets, highways, railroads, rivers, lakes, bayous or other
658 obvious lines of demarcation, with the exception of county lines
659 and municipal corporate limits.

660 No voting precinct shall have more than five hundred (500)
661 qualified electors residing in its boundaries. Subject to the



662 provisions of this section, each board of supervisors of the
663 various counties of this state shall as soon as practical after
664 January 1, 1987, alter or change the boundaries of the various
665 voting precincts to comply herewith and shall from time to time
666 make such changes in the boundaries of voting precincts so that
667 there shall never be more than five hundred (500) qualified
668 electors within the boundaries of the various voting precincts of
669 this state; provided further, this limitation shall not apply to
670 voting precincts that are so divided, alphabetically or otherwise,
671 so as to have less than five hundred (500) qualified electors in
672 any one (1) box within a voting precinct. However, the limitation
673 of five hundred (500) qualified electors to the voting precinct
674 shall not apply to voting precincts in which voting machines are
675 used at all elections held in that voting precinct. No change in
676 any supervisors district or voting precinct shall take effect less
677 than thirty (30) days before the qualifying deadline for the
678 office of county supervisor. Any change in any boundary of a
679 supervisors district or voting precinct that is approved under the
680 Voting Rights Act of 1965 less than thirty (30) days before such
681 qualifying deadline shall be effective only for an election for
682 county supervisor held in a year following the year in which such
683 change is approved under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Provided,
684 however, that, with the exception of county lines and municipal
685 corporate limits, such altered boundaries shall conform to visible
686 natural or artificial boundaries such as streets, highways,



687 railroads, rivers, lakes, bayous or other obvious lines of
688 demarcation.

689 **SECTION 17.** Section 23-15-557, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
690 amended as follows:

691 23-15-557. The governing authorities of any municipality
692 within the State of Mississippi are hereby authorized and
693 empowered, in their discretion, to divide the municipality into a
694 sufficient number of voting precincts of such size and location as
695 is necessary, and there shall be the same number of polling
696 places. In any municipality wherein is located any public or
697 private four-year postsecondary institution of higher learning,
698 the appropriate municipal governing authority and the county board
699 of supervisors, working with the institution's administrative
700 leadership and the Office of the Secretary of State, shall ensure
701 that a voting precinct is located on the main campus of any
702 postsecondary institution of higher learning within its
703 incorporated municipal boundaries. The authority conducting an
704 election shall not be required, however, to establish a polling
705 place in each of said precincts, but such election authorities,
706 whether in a primary or in a general election, may locate and
707 establish such polling places, without regard to precinct lines,
708 in such manner as in the discretion of such authority will better
709 accommodate the electorate and better facilitate the holding of
710 the election.



711 **SECTION 18.** Section 23-15-563, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
712 brought forward as follows:

713 23-15-563. (1) Each person who appears to vote in person at
714 a polling place or the registrar's office shall be required to
715 identify himself or herself to a poll manager or the registrar by
716 presenting current and valid photo identification before such
717 person shall be allowed to vote.

718 (2) The identification required by subsection (1) of this
719 section shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

720 (a) A current and valid Mississippi driver's license;

721 (b) A current and valid identification card issued by a
722 branch, department, agency or entity of the State of Mississippi;

723 (c) A current and valid United States passport;

724 (d) A current and valid employee identification card
725 containing a photograph of the elector and issued by any branch,
726 department, agency or entity of the United States government, the
727 State of Mississippi, or any county, municipality, board,
728 authority or other entity of this state;

729 (e) A current and valid Mississippi license to carry a
730 pistol or revolver;

731 (f) A valid tribal identification card containing a
732 photograph of the elector;

733 (g) A current and valid United States military
734 identification card;



(h) A current and valid student identification card, containing a photograph of the elector, issued by any accredited college, university or community or junior college in the State of Mississippi; and

(i) An official Mississippi voter identification card containing a photograph of the elector.

(3) (a) A person who appears to vote in person at a polling place and does not have identification as required by this section may vote by affidavit ballot. The affidavit ballot shall then be counted if the person shall present acceptable photo identification to the registrar within five (5) days.

(b) An elector who has a religious objection to being photographed may vote by affidavit ballot, and the elector, within five (5) days after the election, shall execute an affidavit in the registrar's office affirming that the exemption applies.

(4) The intentional failure of an election official to require a voter to present identification as required by this section shall be considered corrupt conduct under Section 97-13-19 and shall be reported to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

SECTION 19. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

