MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE   REGULAR SESSION 2019

By: Senator(s) Blount, Simmons (12th),   To: Elections;
Norwood, Frazier, Jackson (32nd), Jordan, Accountability, Efficiency,
Dawkins, Blackmon, Barnett, Jackson (11th), Transparency
Dearing, Simmons (13th), Butler, Witherspoon

SENATE BILL NO. 2258

 1   AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2   TO AUTHORIZE QUALIFIED ELECTORS TO SUBMIT VOTER REGISTRATION
 3   APPLICATIONS THROUGH A SECURE INTERNET WEBSITE ESTABLISHED BY THE
 4   SECRETARY OF STATE; TO ESTABLISH THE PROCEDURE BY WHICH THE COUNTY
 5   REGISTRAR SHALL PROCESS ONLINE APPLICATIONS; TO AMEND SECTIONS
 6   23-15-35, 23-15-37, 23-15-39, 23-15-41 AND 23-15-79, MISSISSIPPI
 7   CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; TO AUTHORIZE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR TO VOTE
 8   NOT MORE THAN 21 DAYS NOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF AN
 9   ELECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT PREELECTION VOTING MAY BE CONDUCTED IN
10   THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE; TO REQUIRE A PERSON WHO DESIRES TO VOTE
11   DURING THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD TO APPEAR AT THE
12   REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND TO PROVIDE THAT AFTER SIGNING THE RECEIPT
13   BOOK SUCH PERSON SHALL BE ENTITLED TO VOTE AT THE REGISTRAR'S
14   OFFICE IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WOULD AT HIS VOTING PRECINCT ON
15   THE DAY OF THE ELECTION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ELECTION LAWS THAT
16   GOVERN PROCEDURES FOR A PERSON WHO APPEARS TO VOTE ON THE DAY OF
17   ELECTION SHALL APPLY WHEN A PERSON APPEARS TO VOTE DURING THE
18   PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL VOTES CAST
19   DURING THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING PERIOD SHALL BE FINAL; TO
20   PROVIDE THAT THE VOTES CAST DURING THE PREELECTION DAY VOTING
21   PERIOD SHALL BE ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE VOTE CAST ON
22   ELECTION DAY; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH CANDIDATE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT
23   TO BE PRESENT AT THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AND TO CHALLENGE THE
24   QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY PERSON OFFERING TO PREELECTION VOTE IN THE
25   SAME MANNER AS PROVIDED BY LAW AT THE POLLING PLACE ON THE DAY OF
26   THE ELECTION; TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO PROMULGATE
27   RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE PREELECTION DAY
28   VOTING; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-195, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
29   CONFORMITY THERETO; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-627, MISSISSIPPI CODE
30   OF 1972, TO REVISE THE CATEGORIES OF VOTERS WHO MAY CAST AN
31   ABSENTEE BALLOT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-637, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
32   1972, TO PROVIDE THAT ALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE
33   REGISTRAR BY A CERTAIN TIME ON THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION; AND
34   FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

36   **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

37 amended as follows:

38   23-15-49. (1) (a) The Secretary of State shall, with the

39 support of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, establish

40 a secure Internet website to permit:

41   (i) Qualified electors as described in subsection

42 (2) of this section to register to vote by online application; and

43   (ii) Registered electors to change their name,

44 address or other information set forth in the elector's existing

45 voter registration record.

46   (b) Upon the request of an elector through the secure

47 website, the software used by the Secretary of State for

48 processing applications through the website shall provide for

49 verification that:

50   (i) The elector has a current and valid

51 Mississippi driver's license or photo identification card issued

52 by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety and the number for

53 that driver's license or photo identification card provided by the

54 applicant matches the number for the elector's driver's license or

55 photo identification card that is on file with the Mississippi

56 Department of Public Safety;

57   (ii) The name and date of birth provided by the

58 voter matches the name and date of birth that is on file with the

59 Mississippi Department of Public Safety; and

60   (iii) The information provided by the elector

61 matches the information on file with the Mississippi Department of

62 Public Safety.

63 *** * ***

64 (*** * ***2) The Secretary of State and the Department of

65 Public Safety shall enter into a memorandum of understanding

66 providing for the sharing of information required to facilitate

67 the requirements of this section.

68 (3) A person may register to vote by online application

69 using the procedures set forth in this section if the person:

70   (a) Is qualified to register to vote in the State of

71 Mississippi; and

72   (b) Has a current and valid Mississippi driver's

73 license or photo identification card issued by the Mississippi

74 Department of Public Safety.

75 (4) The following procedure shall be used in the

76 registration of electors by online application:

77   (a) A qualified elector may register to vote by

78 submitting a completed online registration application to the

79 secure website established in subsection (1) of this section

80 thirty (30) days before any election. However, if the thirtieth

81 day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or legal

82 holiday, the registration applications submitted on the business

83 day immediately following the Sunday or legal holiday shall be

84 accepted and entered into the Statewide Elections Management

85 System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next

86 election. The date the completed application is submitted to the

87 secure website shall be the applicant's date of registration.

88   (b) Any online voter registration application shall be

89 reviewed by the county registrar of the elector's county of

90 residence. Within fourteen (14) days of receipt, the county

91 registrar shall complete action on the application, including any

92 attempts to notify the applicant of the status of his or her

93 application.

94   (c) If the county registrar determines that the

95 applicant is qualified and his or her application is complete, the

96 county registrar shall mail the applicant written notification

97 that the application has been approved, specifying the county

98 voting precinct, municipal voting precinct, if any, polling place

99 and supervisor district in which the person shall vote. This

100 written notification of approval containing the specified

101 information shall be the voter's registration card. The

102 registration card shall be provided by the county registrar to the

103 applicant in accordance with Section 23-15-39. Upon entry of the

104 voter registration information into the Statewide Elections

105 Management System, the system shall assign a voter registration

106 number to the applicant. The assigned voter registration number

107 shall be clearly shown on the written notification of approval.

108 In mailing the written notification, the county registrar shall

109 note the following on the envelope: "DO NOT FORWARD". If any

110 registration notification form is returned as undeliverable, the

111 voter's registration shall be void.

112   (d)   An online application shall be rejected for any of

113 the following reasons:

114   (i)   An incomplete portion of the application makes

115 it impossible for the registrar to determine the eligibility of

116 the applicant to register;

117   (ii)   The county registrar is unable to determine,

118 from the address and information provided on the application, the

119 precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the supervisor

120 district in which he or she is entitled to vote;

121   (iii)   The person is not qualified to register to

122 vote under Section 23-15-11;

123   (iv)   The online registration software is unable to

124 verify the person's application in the manner provided in

125 subsection (1)(b) of this section;

126   (v)   The county registrar determines that the

127 applicant is already registered as a qualified elector of the

128 county.

129   (e)   If the online application of a person is subject to

130 rejection for any of the reasons set forth in paragraph (d)(i)

131 through (iv) of this subsection, the county registrar shall

132 provide the written notice described in this paragraph within

133 fourteen (14) days of receiving the application.   The county

134 registrar shall give the applicant written notice of the rejection

135 and provide the reason for the rejection. The county registrar

136 shall further inform the applicant that he or she has a right to

137 attempt to register by appearing in person, by filing a mail-in

138 application or by filing another online application.

139   (f) If an online application is subject to rejection

140 for the reason stated in paragraph (d)(v) of this subsection and

141 the "present home address" portion of the application is different

142 from the residence address for the applicant found in the

143 Statewide Elections Management System, the online application

144 shall be deemed a written request to update the voter's

145 registration under Section 23-15-13. The county registrar or the

146 election commissioners shall update the voter's residence address

147 in the Statewide Elections Management System and, if necessary,

148 advise the voter of a change in the location of his or her county

149 or municipal polling place by mailing the voter a new voter

150 registration card. If the "present home address" portion of the

151 application does not match the address on file with the

152 Mississippi Department of Public Safety, the request to update the

153 voter's registration information shall be rejected.

154   (5) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or

155 she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county

156 of registration, the county registrar shall enter the information

157 into the Statewide Elections Management System.

158   (6) If the voter indicates on the application that he or she

159 has previously registered to vote in another county of this state

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160 or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of

161 registration in this state shall be provided through the Statewide

162 Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of

163 registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the

164 voter's previous state of residence.

165 (7) The instructions and the form of the online voter

166 application shall be established by rule duly adopted by the

167 Secretary of State.

168 (8) Any person who attempts to register to vote online or

169 who attempts to change registration information under this section

170 shall be subject to the penalties for false registration provided

171 for in Section 23-15-17.

172 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

173 amended as follows:

174 23-15-35. (1) The clerk of the municipality shall be the

175 registrar of voters of the municipality, and shall take the oath

176 of office prescribed by Section 268 of the Constitution. The

177 municipal registration shall conform to the county registration

178 which shall be a part of the official record of registered voters

179 as contained in the Statewide Elections Management System. The

180 municipal clerk shall comply with all the provisions of law

181 regarding the registration of voters, including the use of the

182 voter registration applications used by county registrars and

183 prescribed by the Secretary of State under Sections

184 23-15-39 *** * ***, 23-15-47 and 23-15-49.

185   (2) The municipal clerk shall be authorized to register

186 applicants as county electors. The municipal clerk shall forward

187 notice of registration, a copy of the application for

188 registration, and any changes to the registration when they occur,

189 either by certified mail to the county registrar or by personal

190 delivery to the county registrar provided that a numbered receipt

191 is signed by the county registrar in return for the described

192 documents. Upon receipt of the copy of the application for

193 registration or changes to the registration, and if a review of

194 the application indicates that the applicant meets all the

195 criteria necessary to qualify as a county elector, then the county

196 registrar shall make a determination of the county voting precinct

197 in which the person making the application shall be required to

198 vote. The county registrar shall send this county voting precinct

199 information by United States first-class mail, postage prepaid, to

200 the person at the address provided on the application. Any

201 mailing costs incurred by the municipal clerk or the county

202 registrar in effectuating this subsection (2) shall be paid by the

203 county board of supervisors. If a review of the copy of the

204 application for registration or changes to the registration

205 indicates that the applicant is not qualified to vote in the

206 county, the county registrar shall challenge the application. The

207 county election commissioners shall review any challenge or

208 disqualification, after having notified the applicant by certified

209 mail of the challenge or disqualification.

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210   (3) The municipal clerk shall issue to the person making the

211 application a copy of the application and the county registrar

212 shall process the application in accordance with the law regarding

213 the handling of voter registration applications.

214   (4) The receipt of a copy of the application for

215 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-39(3) shall be

216 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector

217 in the municipality, provided that such application is not

218 challenged as provided for therein.

219   (5) The municipal clerk of each municipality shall provide

220 the county registrar in which the municipality is located the

221 information necessary to conform the municipal registration to the

222 county registration which shall be a part of the official record

223 of registered voters as contained in the Statewide Elections

224 Management System. If any changes to the information occur as a

225 result of redistricting, annexation or other reason, it shall be

226 the responsibility of the municipal clerk to timely provide the

227 changes to the county registrar.

228   **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

229 amended as follows:

230   23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall register the electors of

231 his or her county at any time during regular office hours.

232   (2) The county registrar may keep his or her office open to

233 register voters from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., including the noon

234 hour, for the five (5) business days immediately preceding the

235 thirtieth day before any regularly scheduled primary or general

236 election. The county registrar shall also keep his or her office

237 open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately

238 preceding the thirtieth day before any regularly scheduled primary

239 or general election, unless that Saturday falls on a legal

240 holiday, in which case registration applications submitted on the

241 Monday immediately following the legal holiday shall be accepted

242 and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System for the

243 purpose of enabling such voters to vote in the next primary or

244 general election.

245   (3) The registrar, or any deputy registrar duly appointed by

246 law, may visit and spend such time as he or she may deem necessary

247 at any location in his or her county, selected by the registrar

248 not less than thirty (30) days before an election, for the purpose

249 of registering voters.

250   (4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit

251 the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such

252 disability may contact the registrar and request that the

253 registrar or the registrar's deputy visit him or her for the

254 purpose of registering such person to vote. The registrar or the

255 registrar's deputy shall visit that person as soon as possible

256 after such request and provide the person with an application for

257 registration, if necessary. The completed application for

258 registration shall be executed in the presence of the registrar or

259 the registrar's deputy.

260   (5) (a) In the fall and spring of each year the registrar
261 of each county shall furnish all public schools with mail-in voter
262 registration applications and instructions for submitting online
263 voter registration applications. The applications and
264 instructions shall be provided in a reasonable time to enable
265 those students who will be eighteen (18) years of age before a
266 general election to be able to vote in the primary and general
267 elections.

268   (b) Each public school district shall permit access to
269 all public schools of this state for the county registrar or the
270 county registrar's deputy to register persons who are eligible to
271 vote and to provide voter education.

272   **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
273 amended as follows:

274   23-15-39. (1) Applications for registration as electors of
275 this state, which are sworn to and subscribed before the registrar
276 or deputy registrar authorized by law and which are not made by
277 mail, shall be made upon a form established by rule duly adopted
278 by the Secretary of State.

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

282   (3) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or
283 she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county
284 of registration, the county registrar shall process the

285 application for registration or changes to the registration as
286 provided by law.

287   (4) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or
288 she has previously registered to vote in another county of this
289 state or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of
290 registration in this state shall be provided by the Statewide
291 Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of
292 registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the
293 voter's previous state of residence if the Statewide Elections
294 Management System has that capability.

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

304   (6) Any person desiring an application for registration may
305 secure an application from the registrar of the county of which he
306 or she is a resident and may take the application with him or her
307 and secure assistance in completing the application from any
308 person of the applicant's choice. It shall be the duty of all
309 registrars to furnish applications for registration to all persons

310 requesting them, and it shall likewise be the registrar's duty to

311 furnish aid and assistance in the completing of the application

312 when requested by an applicant. Unless the application for

313 registration is submitted online as described in Section 23-15-49,

314 the application for registration shall be sworn to and subscribed

315 before the registrar or deputy registrar at the municipal clerk's

316 office, the county registrar's office or any other location where

317 the applicant is allowed to register to vote. The registrar shall

318 not charge a fee or cost to the applicant for accepting the

319 application or administering the oath or for any other duty

320 imposed by law regarding the registration of electors.

321   (7) If the person making the application is unable to read

322 or write, for reason of disability or otherwise, he or she shall

323 not be required to personally complete the application in writing

324 and execute the oath. In such cases, the registrar or deputy

325 registrar shall read the application and oath to the person and

326 the person's answers thereto shall be recorded by the registrar or

327 the registrar's deputy. The person shall be registered as an

328 elector if he or she otherwise meets the requirements to be

329 registered as an elector. The registrar shall record the

330 responses of the person and the recorded responses shall be

331 retained permanently by the registrar. The county registrar shall

332 enter the voter registration information into the Statewide

333 Elections Management System and designate the entry as an assisted

334 filing.

335   (8) The receipt of a copy of the application for
336 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-35(2) shall be
337 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector
338 of this state, if the application is not challenged.
339   (9) In any case in which the corporate boundaries of a
340 municipality change, whether by annexation or redistricting, the
341 municipal clerk shall, within ten (10) days after approval of the
342 change in corporate boundaries, provide to the county registrar
343 conforming geographic data that is compatible with the Statewide
344 Elections Management System. The data shall be developed by the
345 municipality's use of a standardized format specified by the
346 Statewide Elections Management System. The county registrar,
347 county election commissioner or other county official, who has
348 completed an annual training seminar sponsored by the Secretary of
349 State pertaining to the implementation of new boundary lines in
350 the Statewide Elections Management System and received
351 certification for that training, shall update the municipal
352 boundary information into the Statewide Elections Management
353 System. The Statewide Elections Management System updates the
354 municipal voter registration records and assigns electors to their
355 municipal voting precincts. The county registrar shall forward to
356 the municipal clerk written notification of the additions and
357 changes, and the municipal clerk shall forward to the affected
358 municipal electors written notification of the additions and
359 changes.

360   **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

361   amended as follows:

362   23-15-41. (1) When an applicant to register to vote has

363   completed the application form as prescribed by administrative

364   rule, the county registrar shall enter the applicant's information

365   into the Statewide Elections Management System where the

366   applicant's status will be marked as "ACTIVE," "PENDING" or

367   "REJECTED," and the applicant shall be entitled to register *** * ***

368   when his or her request for registration is made in person to the

369   registrar, or deputy registrar if a deputy registrar has been

370   appointed or is submitted online as provided in Section 23-15-49.

371   No person other than the registrar, or a deputy registrar, shall

372   register any applicant.

373   (2) If an applicant is not qualified to register to vote,

374   then the registrar shall enter the applicant's information into

375   the Statewide Elections Management System and mark the applicant's

376   status as "PENDING" or "REJECTED," with the specific reason or

377   reasons for that status noted. The registrar shall notify the

378   election commission of those applicants rejected.

379   **SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-79, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

380   amended as follows:

381   23-15-79. (1) Unless the application for registration was

382   made pursuant to Section 23-15-47 or Section 23-15-49, the date of

383   registration to vote shall be the date the application for

384   registration to vote was initially received by the registrar or,

385   if submitted by mail, the postmark date, regardless of the date on

386   which the county election commission, circuit court or Supreme

387   Court, as the case may be, makes its final determination allowing

388   the registration.

389   (2) In the case of an application for registration that has

390   been made pursuant to Section 23-15-47, the date of registration

391   to vote shall be the date the complete and legible application

392   form is received by the county registrar, or, if mailed, the

393   postmark date of the complete and legible application.

394   (3) In the case of an application for registration that has

395   been made pursuant to Section 23-15-49, the date of registration

396   to vote shall be the date the complete application is submitted to

397   the secure Internet website described in Section 23-15-49.

398   **SECTION 7.** Sections 7 through 11 of this act shall be known

399   and may be cited as the "Preelection Day Voting Act."

400   **SECTION 8.** (1) The preelection day voting period shall

401   begin twenty-one (21) days before the date of each election and

402   end at 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately before election day.

403   Any qualified elector may vote in the registrar's office in the

404   county in which the elector is registered to vote during the times

405   established for preelection day voting in this section.

406   (2) Preelection day voting shall be conducted in the office

407   of the registrar during weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

408   During the last full week before an election, the office of the

409 register may remain open for preelection voting on weekdays during
410 the lunch hour and from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

411 **SECTION 9.** (1) An elector who desires to vote early shall
412 appear at the office of the registrar in the county in which he is
413 registered to vote and shall present an acceptable form of photo
414 identification. After signing the appropriate receipt book, the
415 elector shall cast his ballot in the same manner as he would at
416 his voting precinct on the day of the election. Except as may be
417 otherwise provided by Sections 7 through 11 of this act, the
418 election laws that govern procedures for a person who appears to
419 vote on the day of election shall apply when a person appears to
420 vote during the preelection day voting period.

421 (2) All votes cast at a preelection day voting location
422 shall be final.

423 (3) The votes cast during preelection voting shall be
424 announced simultaneously with the vote cast on election day.

425 **SECTION 10.** Each candidate or his representatives shall have
426 the right to be present at the office of the registrar when it is
427 open for preelection day voting and to challenge the
428 qualifications of any person offering to vote in the same manner
429 as provided by law at the polling place on election day.

430 **SECTION 11.** The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules
431 and regulations necessary to effectuate preelection day voting.

432 **SECTION 12.** Section 23-15-195, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
433 amended as follows:

434   23-15-195. All elections by the people shall be by

435 ballot *** * ***.

436   **SECTION 13.** Section 23-15-627, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

437 amended as follows:

438   23-15-627. The registrar shall be responsible for furnishing

439 an absentee ballot application form to any elector authorized to

440 receive an absentee ballot. Except as otherwise provided in

441 Section 23-15-625, absentee ballot applications shall be furnished

442 to a person only upon the oral or written request of the elector

443 who seeks to vote by absentee ballot; however, the parent, child,

444 spouse, sibling, legal guardian, those empowered with a power of

445 attorney for that elector's affairs or agent of the elector, who

446 is designated in writing and witnessed by a resident of this state

447 who shall write his or her physical address on such designation,

448 may orally request an absentee ballot application on behalf of the

449 elector. The written designation shall be valid for one (1) year

450 after the date of the designation. An absentee ballot application

451 must have the seal of the circuit or municipal clerk affixed to it

452 and be initialed by the registrar or his deputy in order to be

453 utilized to obtain an absentee ballot. A reproduction of an

454 absentee ballot application shall not be valid unless it is a

455 reproduction provided by the office of the registrar of the

456 jurisdiction in which the election is being held and which

457 contains the seal and initials required by this section. Such

458 application shall be substantially in the following form:

459   "OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ABSENT ELECTOR'S BALLOT

460   I, _____, duly qualified and registered in the ___ Precinct

461 of the County of _____, and State of Mississippi, coming within

462 the purview of the definition 'ABSENT ELECTOR' will be *** * ***

463 unable to vote in person because (check appropriate reason):

464   ( ) (PRESIDENTIAL APPLICANT ONLY:) I am currently a

465 resident of Mississippi or have moved therefrom within thirty (30)

466 days of the coming presidential election.

467   ( ) I am an enlisted or commissioned member, male or female,

468 of any component of the United States Armed Forces and am a

469 citizen of Mississippi, or spouse or dependent of such member.

470   ( ) I am a member of the Merchant Marine or the American Red

471 Cross and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of

472 such member.

473   ( ) I am a disabled war veteran who is a patient in any

474 hospital and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of

475 such veteran.

476   ( ) I am a civilian attached to and serving outside of the

477 United States with any branch of the Armed Forces or with the

478 Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and am a citizen of

479 Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such civilian.

480   ( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing

481 outside the territorial limits of the United States and the

482 District of Columbia.

483 *** * ***

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484 ( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing

485 outside the county of my residence, or spouse or dependent of such

486 citizen.

487 ( ) I am a trained or certified emergency response provider

488 who is deployed during the time period authorized by law for

489 absentee voting, on election day, or during any state of emergency

490 declared by the President of the United States or any Governor of

491 any state within the United States, or spouse or dependent of such

492 emergency response provider.

493 ( ) I have a temporary or permanent physical disability.

494 ( ) I am sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

495 ( ) I am the parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a

496 temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized

497 outside his county of residence or more than fifty (50) miles away

498 from his residence, and I will be with such person on election

499 day.

500 ( ) I am a member of the congressional delegation, or spouse

501 or dependent of a member of the congressional delegation.

502 *** * ***

503 I hereby make application for an official ballot, or ballots,

504 to be voted by me at the election to be held in _____, on _____.

505 Mail 'Absent Elector's Ballot' to me at the following

506 address_____ *** * ***.

507 I realize that I can be fined up to Five Thousand Dollars

508 ($5,000.00) and sentenced up to five (5) years in the Penitentiary

509 for making a false statement in this application and for selling

510 my vote and violating the Mississippi Absentee Voter Law. (This

511 sentence is to be in bold print.)

512   If you are temporarily or permanently disabled, you are not

513 required to have this application notarized or signed by an

514 official authorized to administer oaths for absentee balloting.

515 You are required to sign this application in the proper place and

516 have a person eighteen (18) years of age or older witness your

517 signature and sign this application in the proper place.

518   DO NOT SIGN WITHOUT READING. (This sentence is to be in bold

519 print.)

520   IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this

521 the ____ day of _____, 2___.

522   _____

523   (Signature of absent elector)

524   SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the ____ day of _____,

525 2___.

526   _____

527   (Official authorized to administer oaths

528   for absentee balloting.)

529   TO BE SIGNED BY WITNESS FOR VOTERS TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY

530 DISABLED:

531   I HEREBY CERTIFY that this application for an absent

532 elector's ballot was signed by the above-named disabled elector in

533 my presence and that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age,

534 this the _____ day of _____, 2___.

535   _____

536   (Signature of witness)

537   CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

538   I hereby certify that _____ (print name of voter)

539 has requested that I, _____ (print name of person

540 delivering application), deliver to the voter this absentee ballot

541 application.

542   _____

543   (Signature of person delivering application)

544   _____

545   (Address of person delivering application)"

546   **SECTION 14.** Section 23-15-637, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

547 amended as follows:

548   23-15-637. Absentee ballots *** * *** must be received by the

549 registrar by 5:00 p.m. on the date preceding the election; any

550 received after such time shall be handled as provided in Section

551 23-15-647 and shall not be counted. *** * *** The registrar shall

552 deposit all absentee ballots which have been timely cast in the

553 ballot boxes upon receipt.

554   **SECTION 15.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

555 and after July 1, 2019.

S. B. No. 2258 ||||||||||||||||||||||||| **~ OFFICIAL ~**
19/SS26/R477
PAGE 22 (tb\rc)   ST: Elections; authorize online voter
                    registration and preelection day voting.