

By: Representative Tullos

To: Judiciary A

## HOUSE BILL NO. 625

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE OFFICE OF CHANCERY CLERK SHALL BE  
2 A NONPARTISAN OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR  
3 THE OFFICE OF CHANCERY CLERK SHALL BE LISTED AS NONPARTISAN ON THE  
4 BALLOT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-299, 23-15-359, 23-15-367,  
5 23-15-511 AND 23-15-531.3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO  
6 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The office of chancery clerk is a nonpartisan  
9 office and a candidate for election to the office is prohibited  
10 from campaigning or qualifying for the office based on party  
11 affiliation. To ensure that campaigns for the nonpartisan office  
12 of chancery clerk remain nonpartisan and without any connection to  
13 a political party, political parties and any committee or  
14 political committee affiliated with a political party shall not  
15 engage in fundraising on behalf of a candidate or officeholder of  
16 the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk, and a political party or  
17 any committee or political committee affiliated with a political  
18 party shall not make any contribution to a candidate for the  
19 nonpartisan office of chancery clerk or the political committee of  
20 a candidate for the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk. A



21 political party or any committee or political committee affiliated  
22 with a political party shall not publicly endorse a candidate for  
23 the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk. A candidate or the  
24 political committee of a candidate for the nonpartisan office of  
25 chancery clerk shall not accept a contribution from a political  
26 party or any committee or political committee affiliated with a  
27 political party.

28       **SECTION 2.** (1) The names of candidates for the office of  
29 chancery clerk which appear on the ballot at the general election  
30 shall be grouped together on a separate portion of the ballot and  
31 clearly identified as nonpartisan.

32       (2) The names of all candidates for the office of chancery  
33 clerk shall be listed in alphabetical order on any ballot, and no  
34 reference to political party affiliation shall appear on any  
35 ballot with respect to the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk or  
36 the candidate for the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk.

37       **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-299, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
38 amended as follows:

39       23-15-299. (1) (a) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs  
40 (a), (b) and (c) of Section 23-15-297 shall be paid by each  
41 candidate who seeks a nomination in the political party election  
42 to the secretary of the state executive committee with which the  
43 candidate is affiliated by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in  
44 which the primary election for the office is held or on the date  
45 of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the office,



46 whichever is earlier; however, no such assessments may be paid  
47 before January 1 of the year in which the primary election for the  
48 office is held. If March 1 or the date of the qualifying deadline  
49 provided by statute for the office occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or  
50 legal holiday, then the assessments required to be paid by this  
51 paragraph (a) shall be paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day  
52 immediately following the Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

53 (b) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b)  
54 and (c) of Section 23-15-297 shall be paid by each independent  
55 candidate or special election candidate to the Secretary of State  
56 by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the year in which the primary election  
57 for the office is held or on the date of the qualifying deadline  
58 provided by statute for the office, whichever is earlier; however,  
59 no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in  
60 which the primary election for the office is held. If March 1 or  
61 the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the  
62 office occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the  
63 assessments required to be paid by this paragraph (b) shall be  
64 paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately following the  
65 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

66 (2) (a) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e)  
67 of Section 23-15-297, shall be paid by each candidate who seeks a  
68 nomination in the political party election to the circuit clerk of  
69 that candidate's county of residence by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of  
70 the year in which the primary election for the office is held or



71 on the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the  
72 office, whichever is earlier; however, no such assessments may be  
73 paid before January 1 of the year in which the election for the  
74 office is held. If March 1 or the date of the qualifying deadline  
75 provided by statute for the office occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or  
76 legal holiday, then the assessments required to be paid by this  
77 paragraph (a) shall be paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day  
78 immediately following the Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The  
79 circuit clerk shall forward the fee and all necessary information  
80 to the secretary of the proper county executive committee within  
81 two (2) business days. No candidate may attempt to qualify with  
82 any political party that does not have a duly organized county  
83 executive committee, and the circuit clerk shall not accept any  
84 assessments paid for nonlegislative offices pursuant to paragraphs  
85 (d) and (e) of Section 23-15-297 if the circuit clerk does not  
86 have contact information for the secretary of the county executive  
87 committee for that political party.

88 (b) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e)  
89 of Section 23-15-297 shall be paid by each independent candidate,  
90 nonpartisan candidate or special election candidate to the circuit  
91 clerk of that candidate's county of residence by 5:00 p.m. on  
92 March 1 of the year in which the primary election for the office  
93 is held or on the date of the qualifying deadline provided by  
94 statute for the office, whichever is earlier; however, no such  
95 assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in which the



96 primary election for the office is held. If March 1 or the date  
97 of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the office  
98 occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the  
99 assessments required to be paid by this paragraph (b) shall be  
100 paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately following the  
101 Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. The circuit clerk shall  
102 forward the fee and all necessary information to the secretary of  
103 the proper county election commission within two (2) business  
104 days.

105 (3) (a) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g)  
106 of Section 23-15-297 must be paid by each candidate who seeks a  
107 nomination in the political party election to the secretary of the  
108 state executive committee with which the candidate is affiliated  
109 by 5:00 p.m. sixty (60) days before the presidential preference  
110 primary in years in which a presidential preference primary is  
111 held; however, no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of  
112 the year in which the primary election for the office is held.  
113 Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of Section  
114 23-15-297, in years when a presidential preference primary is not  
115 being held, shall be paid by each candidate who seeks a nomination  
116 in the political party election to the secretary of the state  
117 executive committee with which the candidate is affiliated by 5:00  
118 p.m. on March 1 of the year in which the primary election for the  
119 office is held; however, no such assessments may be paid before  
120 January 1 of the year in which the primary election for the office



121 is held. If sixty (60) days before the presidential preference  
122 primary in years in which a presidential preference primary is  
123 held, March 1, or the date of the qualifying deadline provided by  
124 statute for the office occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal  
125 holiday, then the assessments required to be paid by this  
126 paragraph (a) shall be paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day  
127 immediately following the Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

128 (b) Assessments made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g)  
129 of Section 23-15-297 must be paid by each independent candidate or  
130 special election candidate to the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m.  
131 sixty (60) days before the presidential preference primary in  
132 years in which a presidential preference primary is held; however,  
133 no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of the year in  
134 which the primary election for the office is held. Assessments  
135 made pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of Section 23-15-297, in  
136 years when a presidential preference primary is not being held,  
137 shall be paid by each independent candidate or special election  
138 candidate to the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. on March 1 of the  
139 year in which the primary election for the office is held;  
140 however, no such assessments may be paid before January 1 of the  
141 year in which the primary election for the office is held. If  
142 sixty (60) days before the presidential preference primary in  
143 years in which a presidential preference primary is held, March 1,  
144 or the date of the qualifying deadline provided by statute for the  
145 office occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the



assessments required to be paid by this paragraph (b) shall be paid by 5:00 p.m. on the business day immediately following the Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

(4) (a) The fees paid pursuant to subsections (1), (2) and (3) of this section shall be accompanied by a written statement containing the name and address of the candidate, the party with which he or she is affiliated, if applicable, the email address of the candidate, if any, and the office for which he or she is a candidate.

(b) The state executive committee shall transmit to the Secretary of State a copy of the written statements accompanying the fees paid pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section. All copies must be received by the Office of the Secretary of State by not later than 6:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline; provided, however, the failure of the Office of the Secretary of State to receive such copies by 6:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline shall not affect the qualification of a person who pays the required fee and files the required statement by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline. The name of any person who pays the required fee and files the required statement after 5:00 p.m. on the date of the qualifying deadline shall not be placed on the primary election ballot or the general election ballot.

(5) The Secretary of State or the secretary or circuit clerk to whom such payments are made shall promptly receipt for same



171 stating the office for which the candidate making payment is  
172 running and the political party with which he or she is  
173 affiliated, if applicable, and he or she shall keep an itemized  
174 account in detail showing the exact time and date of the receipt  
175 of each payment received by him or her and, where applicable, the  
176 date of the postmark on the envelope containing the fee and from  
177 whom, and for what office the party paying same is a candidate.

178 (6) The secretaries of the proper executive committee shall  
179 hold the funds to be finally disposed of by order of their  
180 respective executive committees. The funds may be used or  
181 disbursed by the executive committee receiving same to pay all  
182 necessary traveling or other necessary expenses of the members of  
183 the executive committee incurred in discharging their duties as  
184 committee members, and of their secretary and may pay the  
185 secretary such salary as may be reasonable. The Secretary of  
186 State shall deposit any qualifying fees received from candidates  
187 into the Elections Support Fund established in Section 23-15-5.

188 (7) (a) Upon receipt of the proper fee and all necessary  
189 information, the proper executive committee or the Secretary of  
190 State, whichever is applicable, shall then determine at the time  
191 of the qualifying deadline, unless otherwise provided by law,  
192 whether each candidate is a qualified elector of the state, state  
193 district, county or county district which they seek to serve, and  
194 whether each candidate meets all other qualifications to hold the  
195 office he or she is seeking or presents absolute proof that he or





196 she will, subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on  
197 or before the date of the general or special election at which he  
198 or she could be elected to office. The proper executive committee  
199 or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, shall  
200 determine whether the candidate has taken the steps necessary to  
201 qualify for more than one (1) office at the election. The  
202 committee or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable,  
203 shall also determine whether any candidate has been convicted (i)  
204 of any felony in a court of this state, (ii) on or after December  
205 8, 1992, of any offense in another state which is a felony under  
206 the laws of this state, (iii) of any felony in a federal court on  
207 or after December 8, 1992, or (iv) of any offense that involved  
208 the misuse or abuse of his or her office or money coming into his  
209 or her hands by virtue of the office. Excepted from the above are  
210 convictions of manslaughter and violations of the United States  
211 Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the tax laws of this  
212 state.

213 (b) If the proper executive committee or the Secretary  
214 of State, whichever is applicable, finds that a candidate either  
215 (i) is not a qualified elector, (ii) does not meet all  
216 qualifications to hold the office he or she seeks and fails to  
217 provide absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that he or  
218 she will meet the qualifications on or before the date of the  
219 general or special election at which he or she could be elected,  
220 or (iii) has been convicted of a felony or other disqualifying



221 offense as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, and not  
222 pardoned, then the executive committee shall notify the candidate  
223 and give the candidate an opportunity to be heard. The executive  
224 committee shall mail notice to the candidate at least three (3)  
225 business days before the hearing to the address provided by the  
226 candidate on the qualifying forms, and the committee shall attempt  
227 to contact the candidate by telephone, email and facsimile if the  
228 candidate provided this information on the forms. If the  
229 candidate fails to appear at the hearing or to prove that he or  
230 she meets all qualifications to hold the office subject to no  
231 contingencies, then the name of that candidate shall not be placed  
232 upon the ballot.

233           (c) If the proper executive committee or the Secretary  
234 of State, whichever is applicable, determines that the candidate  
235 has taken the steps necessary to qualify for more than one (1)  
236 office at the election, the action required by Section 23-15-905,  
237 shall be taken.

238           (d) Where there is but one (1) candidate for each  
239 office contested at the primary election, the proper executive  
240 committee or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, when  
241 the time has expired within which the names of candidates shall be  
242 furnished shall declare such candidates the nominees.

243           (8) No candidate may qualify by filing the information  
244 required by this section by using the Internet.



245           **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-359, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
246 amended as follows:

247           23-15-359. (1) Except as provided in this section and  
248 Section 2 of this act, the ballot shall contain the names of all  
249 party nominees certified by the appropriate executive committee,  
250 and independent and special election candidates who have timely  
251 filed petitions containing the required signatures and assessments  
252 that must be paid pursuant to Section 23-15-297, if the candidates  
253 and nominees meet all of the qualifications to hold the office  
254 sought. A petition requesting that an independent or special  
255 election candidate's name be placed on the ballot for any office  
256 shall be filed as provided for in subsection (3) or (4) of this  
257 section, as appropriate, and shall be signed by not less than the  
258 following number of qualified electors:

259           (a) For an office elected by the state at large, not  
260 less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors.

261           (b) For an office elected by the qualified electors of  
262 a Supreme Court district, not less than three hundred (300)  
263 qualified electors.

264           (c) For an office elected by the qualified electors of  
265 a congressional district, not less than two hundred (200)  
266 qualified electors.

267           (d) For an office elected by the qualified electors of  
268 a circuit or chancery court district, not less than one hundred  
269 (100) qualified electors.



(e) For an office elected by the qualified electors of a senatorial or representative district, not less than fifty (50) qualified electors.

(f) For an office elected by the qualified electors of a county, not less than fifty (50) qualified electors.

(g) For an office elected by the qualified electors of a supervisors district or justice court district, not less than fifteen (15) qualified electors.

(h) For the Office of President of the United States, a party nominee or independent candidate shall pay an assessment in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

(2) (a) Unless the petition or fee, whichever is applicable, required above shall be filed as provided for in subsection (3), (4) or (5) of this section, as appropriate, the name of the person requested to be a candidate, unless nominated by a political party, shall not be placed upon the ballot. The ballot shall contain the names of each candidate for each office, and the names shall be listed under the name of the political party that candidate represents as provided by law and as certified to the circuit clerk by the state executive committee of the political party. In the event the candidate qualifies as an independent as provided in this section, he or she shall be listed on the ballot as an independent candidate. The names of candidates for the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk shall be listed on the ballot as provided in Section 2 of this act.



295 (b) The name of an independent, nonpartisan or special  
296 election candidate who dies before the printing of the ballots,  
297 shall not be placed on the ballots.

298 (3) Petitions for offices described in paragraphs (a), (b),  
299 (c), (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of this section shall be filed  
300 with the Secretary of State by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same  
301 date or business day, as applicable, by which candidates are  
302 required to pay the fee provided for in Section 23-15-297;  
303 however, no petition may be filed before January 1 of the year in  
304 which the election for the office is held.

305 (4) Petitions for offices described in paragraphs (f) and  
306 (g) of subsection (1) of this section shall be filed with the  
307 proper circuit clerk by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date  
308 by which candidates are required to pay the fee provided for in  
309 Section 23-15-297; however, no petition may be filed before  
310 January 1 of the year in which the election for the office is  
311 held. The circuit clerk shall notify the county election  
312 commissioners of all persons who have filed petitions with the  
313 clerk. The notification shall occur within two (2) business days  
314 and shall contain all necessary information.

315 (5) The assessment for the office described in paragraph (h)  
316 of subsection (1) of this section shall be paid to the Secretary  
317 of State. The Secretary of State shall deposit any qualifying  
318 fees received from candidates into the Elections Support Fund  
319 established in Section 23-15-5.



320           (6) The election commissioners may also have printed upon  
321 the ballot any local issue election matter that is authorized to  
322 be held on the same date as the regular or general election  
323 pursuant to Section 23-15-375; however, the ballot form of the  
324 local issue must be filed with the election commissioners by the  
325 appropriate governing authority not less than sixty (60) days  
326 before the date of the election.

327           (7) The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
328 municipal elections or to the election of the offices of justice  
329 of the Supreme Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit  
330 judge, chancellor, county court judge and family court judge.

331           (8) Nothing in this section shall prohibit special elections  
332 to fill vacancies in either house of the Legislature from being  
333 held as provided in Section 23-15-851. In all elections conducted  
334 under the provisions of Section 23-15-851, there shall be printed  
335 on the ballot the name of any candidate who, not having been  
336 nominated by a political party, shall have been requested to be a  
337 candidate for any office by a petition filed with the Secretary of  
338 State and signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors.

339           (9) (a) The appropriate election commission shall determine  
340 whether each candidate is a qualified elector of the state, state  
341 district, county or county district they seek to serve, and  
342 whether each candidate meets all other qualifications to hold the  
343 office he or she is seeking or presents absolute proof that he or  
344 she will, subject to no contingencies, meet all qualifications on



345 or before the date of the general or special election at which he  
346 or she could be elected to office. The election commission shall  
347 determine whether the candidate has taken the steps necessary to  
348 qualify for more than one (1) office at the election. The  
349 election commission also shall determine whether any candidate has  
350 been convicted (i) of any felony in a court of this state, (ii) on  
351 or after December 8, 1992, of any offense in another state which  
352 is a felony under the laws of this state, (iii) of any felony in a  
353 federal court on or after December 8, 1992, or (iv) of any offense  
354 that involved the misuse or abuse of his or her office or money  
355 coming into his or her hands by virtue of the office. Excepted  
356 from the above are convictions of manslaughter and violations of  
357 the United States Internal Revenue Code or any violations of the  
358 tax laws of this state.

359 (b) If the appropriate election commission finds that a  
360 candidate either (i) is not a qualified elector, (ii) does not  
361 meet all qualifications to hold the office he or she seeks and  
362 fails to provide absolute proof, subject to no contingencies, that  
363 he or she will meet the qualifications on or before the date of  
364 the general or special election at which he or she could be  
365 elected, or (iii) has been convicted of a felony or other  
366 disqualifying offense as described in paragraph (a) of this  
367 subsection, and not pardoned, then the election commission shall  
368 notify the candidate and give the candidate an opportunity to be  
369 heard. The election commission shall mail notice to the candidate



at least three (3) business days before the hearing to the address provided by the candidate on the qualifying forms, and the committee shall attempt to contact the candidate by telephone, email and facsimile if the candidate provided this information on the forms. If the candidate fails to appear at the hearing or to prove that he or she meets all qualifications to hold the office subject to no contingencies, then the name of such candidate shall not be placed upon the ballot. If the appropriate election commission determines that the candidate has taken the steps necessary to qualify for more than one (1) office at the election, the action required by Section 23-15-905, shall be taken.

(10) If after the deadline to qualify as a candidate for an office or after the time for holding any party primary for an office, only one (1) person has duly qualified to be a candidate for the office in the general election, the name of that person shall be placed on the ballot; provided, however, that if not more than one (1) person duly qualified to be a candidate for each office on the general election ballot, the election for all offices on the ballot shall be dispensed with and the appropriate election commission shall declare each candidate elected without opposition if the candidate meets all the qualifications to hold the office as determined pursuant to a review by the election commission in accordance with the provisions of subsection (9) of this section and if the candidate has filed all required campaign finance disclosure reports as required by Section 23-15-807.





(11) The petition required by this section may not be filed by using the Internet.

**SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-367, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-367. (1) Except as otherwise provided by Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985 \* \* \*, subsection (2) of this section and Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the size, print and quality of paper of the official ballot is left to the discretion of the officer charged with printing the official ballot.

(2) The titles for the various offices shall be listed in the following order:

(a) Candidates, electors or delegates for the following national offices:

(i) President;

(ii) United States Senator or United States Representative;

(b) Candidates for the following statewide office: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, Commissioner of Insurance;

(c) Candidates for the following state district offices: Mississippi Transportation Commissioner, Public Service Commissioner, District Attorney;

(d) Candidates for the following legislative offices: Senate and House of Representatives;



(e) Candidates for countywide office;

(f) Candidates for county district office.

The order in which the titles for the various offices are listed within paragraphs (e) and (f) is left to the discretion of the county election commissioners. Nominees of the political parties, qualified to conduct primary elections as defined in Section 23-15-291, shall be listed first alphabetically by the candidate's last name, followed by any other candidates listed alphabetically by last name.

(3) It is the duty of the Secretary of State, with the approval of the Governor, to furnish the designated election commissioner of each county a sample of the official ballot, not less than fifty-five (55) days before the election, the general form of which shall be followed as nearly as practicable.

**SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-511, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-511. The ballots shall, as far as practicable, be in the same order of arrangement as provided for paper ballots that are to be counted manually, except that the information may be printed in vertical or horizontal rows. Nothing in this chapter shall \* \* \* prohibit the information being presented to the voters from being printed on both sides of a single ballot. In those years when a special election \* \* \* occurs on the same day as the general election, the names of candidates in any special election and the general election shall be placed on the same ballot by the



election commissioners or officials in charge of the election, but the general election candidates shall be clearly distinguished from the special election candidates. At any time a special election is held on the same day as a party primary election, the names of the candidates in the special election may be placed on the same ballot by the officials in charge of the election, but shall be clearly distinguished as special election candidates or primary election candidates.

Ballots shall be printed in plain clear type in black ink and upon clear white materials of such size and arrangement as to be compatible with the OMR equipment. Absentee ballots shall be prepared and printed in the same form and shall be on the same size and texture as the regular official ballots, except that they shall be printed on tinted paper; or the ink used to print the ballots shall be of a color different from that of the ink used to print the regular official ballots. Arrows may be printed on the ballot to indicate the place to mark the ballot, which may be to the right or left of the names of candidates and propositions.

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the titles of offices may be arranged in vertical columns on the ballot and shall be printed above or at the side of the names of candidates so as to indicate clearly the candidates for each office and the number to be elected. In case there are more candidates for an office than can be printed in one (1) column, the ballot shall be clearly marked that the list of candidates is



continued on the following column. Except as otherwise provided  
in Sections 1 and 2 of this act, the names of candidates for each  
office shall be printed in vertical columns, grouped by the  
offices that they seek. In partisan elections, the party  
designation of each candidate, which may be abbreviated, shall be  
printed following his or her name.

One (1) sample ballot, which shall be a facsimile of the  
official ballot and instructions to the voters, shall be provided  
for each precinct and shall be posted in each polling place on  
election day.

A separate ballot security envelope or suitable equivalent in  
which the voter can place his or her ballot after voting, shall be  
provided to conceal the choices the voter has made. Absentee  
voters will receive a similar ballot security envelope provided by  
the county in which the absentee voter will insert their voted  
ballot, which then can be inserted into a return envelope to be  
mailed back to the election official. Absentee ballots will not  
be required to be folded when a ballot security envelope is  
provided.

**SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-531.3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
amended as follows:

23-15-531.3. (1) The ballots for DRE units shall be of such  
size and arrangement as will suit the construction of the DRE  
screen and shall be in plain, clear type that is easily readable  
by persons with normal vision.



(2) (a) If the DRE unit has the capacity for color display, the names of all candidates in a particular race shall be displayed in the same color, font and size, and the political party or affiliation of candidates may be displayed in a color different from that used to display the names of the candidates, but all political parties or affiliations shall be displayed in the same color. All political party names shall be displayed in the same size and font. The names of candidates for the nonpartisan office of chancery clerk shall be displayed as provided for in Sections 1 and 2 of this act.

(b) All ballot questions, local options, referenda and constitutional amendments shall be displayed in the same color.

**SECTION 8.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall be codified as new sections in Chapter 15, Title 23, Mississippi Code of 1972.

**SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2020.

