

By: Representative Tullos

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 626

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT CLERK SHALL BE A
2 NONPARTISAN OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR
3 THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT 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 circuit 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 circuit 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 circuit 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 circuit clerk or the political committee of
20 a candidate for the nonpartisan office of circuit 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 circuit clerk. A candidate or the
24 political committee of a candidate for the nonpartisan office of
25 circuit 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 circuit 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 circuit
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 circuit clerk or
36 the candidate for the nonpartisan office of circuit 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.



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

281 (2) (a) Unless the petition or fee, whichever is
282 applicable, required above shall be filed as provided for in
283 subsection (3), (4) or (5) of this section, as appropriate, the
284 name of the person requested to be a candidate, unless nominated
285 by a political party, shall not be placed upon the ballot. The
286 ballot shall contain the names of each candidate for each office,
287 and the names shall be listed under the name of the political
288 party that candidate represents as provided by law and as
289 certified to the circuit clerk by the state executive committee of
290 the political party. In the event the candidate qualifies as an
291 independent as provided in this section, he or she shall be listed
292 on the ballot as an independent candidate. The names of
293 candidates for the nonpartisan office of circuit clerk shall be
294 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.



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

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

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

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

