

By: Senator(s) Blount

To: Elections;
Accountability, Efficiency,
Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2105

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 (3) 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 paragraphs (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



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.



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 * * *



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, 2020.

