

By: Representative Anderson (110th)

To: Constitution; Judiciary
B

HOUSE BILL NO. 451

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO IS OTHERWISE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR AND
3 HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF VOTER FRAUD, BRIBERY, THEFT, ARSON,
4 OBTAINING MONEY OR GOODS UNDER FALSE PRETENSE, PERJURY, FORGERY,
5 EMBEZZLEMENT, BIGAMY OR ANY CRIME INTERPRETED AS DISENFRANCHISING
6 IN LATER ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS EXCEPT FOR MURDER AND RAPE
7 SHALL HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE SUSPENDED UPON CONVICTION AND
8 SHALL NOT HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE RESTORED UNTIL HE OR SHE
9 HAS SATISFIED ALL OF THE SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVICTION
10 INCLUDING PAROLE BUT NOT PROBATION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-19,
11 23-15-125, 23-15-151, 23-15-153 AND 23-15-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
12 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO BRING FORWARD
13 SECTIONS 97-39-3 AND 99-19-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE
14 PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
17 amended as follows:

18 23-15-11. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except
19 persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, shall be a qualified
20 elector in and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of
21 his or her residence and shall be entitled to vote at any election
22 upon compliance with Section 23-15-563, if he or she is:

23 (a) * * * A citizen of the United States of
24 America * * *;



25 (b) Eighteen (18) years old and upwards * * *;
26 (c) * * * A resident in this state for thirty (30) days
27 and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she seeks to
28 vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in
29 which he or she seeks to vote * * *;
30 (d) * * * Duly registered as an elector under Section
31 23-15-33 * * *; and
32 (e) * * * Never * * * convicted of rape or murder * * *.

33 If the thirtieth day to register before an election falls on
34 a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration applications submitted
35 on the business day immediately following the Sunday or legal
36 holiday shall be accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections
37 Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in
38 the next election.

39 (2) A person who is otherwise a qualified elector under the
40 provisions of subsection (1) and has been convicted of voter
41 fraud, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false
42 pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, bigamy or any crime
43 interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions
44 except for murder and rape shall have his or her right to vote
45 suspended upon conviction and shall have his or her right to vote
46 restored once he or she has satisfied all of the sentencing
47 requirements of the conviction including parole but not probation.

48 (3) Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or
49 older on or before the date of the general election and who is



duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the primary election associated with the general election, may vote in the primary election even though the person has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote at the primary election.

(4) No others than those specified in this section shall be entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any election.

SECTION 2. Section 23-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-19. Any person who has been convicted of vote fraud * * *, any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, such crimes defined as "disenfranchising," shall * * * have his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction and shall have his or her right to vote restored once he or she has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction including parole but not probation. Whenever any person shall be convicted in the circuit court of his or her county of a disenfranchising crime, the county registrar shall * * * remove his or her name from the Statewide Elections Management System until he or she has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction including parole but not probation; and whenever any person shall be convicted of a disenfranchising crime in any other court of any county, the presiding judge of the court shall, on demand, certify the fact in



75 writing to the registrar of the county in which the voter resides,
76 who shall * * * remove the name of the person from the Statewide
77 Elections Management System until he or she has satisfied all of
78 the sentencing requirements of the conviction including parole but
79 not probation and retain the certificate as a record of his or her
80 office.

81 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
82 amended as follows:

83 23-15-125. The pollbook of each voting precinct shall
84 designate the voting precinct for which it is to be used, and
85 shall be ruled in appropriate columns, with printed or written
86 headings, as follows: date of registration; voter registration
87 number; name of electors; date of birth; and a number of blank
88 columns for the dates of elections. All qualified applicants who
89 register with the registrar shall be entered in the Statewide
90 Elections Management System. Only the names of those qualified
91 applicants who register within thirty (30) days before an election
92 shall appear on the pollbooks of the election; however, if the
93 thirtieth day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or
94 legal holiday, the registration applications submitted on the
95 business day immediately following the legal holiday shall be
96 accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System
97 for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election.
98 When county election commissioners determine that any elector is
99 disqualified from voting, by reason of death, conviction of a



100 disenfranchising crime, removal from the jurisdiction, or other
101 legal cause, that fact shall be noted in the Statewide Elections
102 Management System and the voter's name shall be removed from the
103 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and
104 the county's pollbooks. Nothing in this section shall preclude
105 the use of electronic pollbooks. A person who is otherwise a
106 qualified elector under the provisions of Section 23-15-11 and has
107 been convicted of voter fraud, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining
108 money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery,
109 embezzlement, bigamy or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising
110 in later Attorney General opinions except for murder and rape
111 shall have his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction and
112 shall have his or her right to vote restored once he or she has
113 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction
114 including parole but not probation. Once the person has satisfied
115 all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction, the voter's
116 name shall be restored into the Statewide Elections Management
117 System, the state's voter roll and the county's pollbooks.

118 **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
119 amended as follows:

120 23-15-151. The circuit clerk of each county is authorized
121 and directed to prepare and keep in his or her office a full and
122 complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of
123 voter fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi
124 Constitution of 1890 or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising



125 in later Attorney General opinions whose right to vote has been
126 suspended upon conviction. A certified copy of any enrollment by
127 one clerk to another will be sufficient authority for the
128 enrollment of the name, or names, in another county. A list of
129 persons convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241,
130 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as
131 disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, shall also be
132 entered into the Statewide Elections Management System on a
133 quarterly basis. * * * A person who is otherwise a qualified
134 elector under the provisions of Section 23-15-11 and has been
135 convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241,
136 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as
137 disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, shall have
138 his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction but shall have
139 his or her right to vote automatically restored once he or she has
140 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction,
141 including parole but not probation. Once the person has satisfied
142 all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction, including
143 parole but not probation, the voter's name shall be automatically
144 restored into the Statewide Elections Management System, the
145 state's voter roll and the county's pollbooks.

146 **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
147 amended as follows:

148 23-15-153. (1) At least during the following times, the
149 election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar



or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been convicted of a disenfranchising crime and had his or her right to vote suspended, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any cause, and shall register the names of all persons who have duly applied to be registered but have been illegally denied registration:

(a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January 1987 and every following year;

(b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in the years when members of Congress are elected;

(c) On the first Monday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for state, state district legislative, county and county district offices in the years in which those offices are elected; and

(d) On the second Monday of September preceding the general election or regular special election day in years in which a general election is not conducted.

Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall



be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Except as otherwise provided by Section 23-15-573, no person shall vote at any election whose name is not in the county voter roll electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System.

(2) Except as provided in this section, and subject to the following annual limitations, the election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in subsection (1) of this section:

(a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than fifty (50) days per year, with no more than fifteen (15) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but



less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than seventy-five (75) days per year, with no more than twenty-five (25) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred (100) days per year, with no more than thirty-five (35) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred twenty-five (125) days per year, with no more than forty-five (45) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred fifty (150) days per year, with no more than



fifty-five (55) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year, with no more than sixty-five (65) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred ninety (190) days per year, with no more than seventy-five (75) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than two hundred fifteen (215) days per year, with no more than eighty-five (85) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(i) In counties having two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial



census but less than two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than two hundred thirty (230) days per year, with no more than ninety-five (95) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(j) In counties having two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census or more, not more than two hundred forty (240) days per year, with no more than one hundred five (105) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year.

(3) In addition to the number of days authorized in subsection (2) of this section, the board of supervisors of a county may authorize, in its discretion, the election commissioners to receive a per diem in the amount provided for in subsection (2) of this section, to be paid from the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in subsection (1) of this section, not to exceed five (5) days.



273 (4) (a) The election commissioners shall be entitled to
274 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00),
275 to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed ten (10)
276 days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours
277 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the
278 performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the
279 revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by
280 the Statewide Elections Management System before any special
281 election. For purposes of this paragraph, the regular special
282 election day shall not be considered a special election. The
283 annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section
284 shall not apply to this paragraph.

285 (b) The election commissioners shall be entitled to
286 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Dollars
287 (\$150.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for the
288 performance of their duties on the day of any primary, runoff,
289 general or special election. The annual limitations set forth in
290 subsection (2) of this section shall apply to this paragraph.

291 (c) The board of supervisors may, in its discretion,
292 pay the election commissioners an additional amount not to exceed
293 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for the performance of their duties at any
294 election occurring from July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020,
295 which shall be considered additional pandemic pay. Such
296 compensation shall be payable out of the county general fund, and



may be payable from federal funds available for such purpose, or a combination of both funding sources.

(5) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed fourteen (14) days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and in the conduct of a runoff election following either a general or special election.

(6) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive only one (1) per diem payment for those days when the election commissioners discharge more than one (1) duty or responsibility on the same day.

(7) In preparation for a municipal primary, runoff, general or special election, the county registrar shall generate and distribute the master voter roll and pollbooks from the Statewide Elections Management System for the municipality located within the county. The municipality shall pay the county registrar for the actual cost of preparing and printing the municipal master voter roll pollbooks. A municipality may secure "read only" access to the Statewide Elections Management System and print its own pollbooks using this information.



321 (8) County election commissioners who perform the duties of
322 an executive committee with regard to the conduct of a primary
323 election under a written agreement authorized by law to be entered
324 into with an executive committee shall receive per diem as
325 provided for in subsection (2) of this section. The days that
326 county election commissioners are employed in the conduct of a
327 primary election shall be treated the same as days county election
328 commissioners are employed in the conduct of other elections.

329 (9) In addition to any per diem authorized by this section,
330 any election commissioner shall be entitled to the mileage
331 reimbursement rate allowable to federal employees for the use of a
332 privately owned vehicle while on official travel on election day.

333 (10) Every election commissioner shall sign personally a
334 certification setting forth the number of hours actually worked in
335 the performance of the commissioner's official duties and for
336 which the commissioner seeks compensation. The certification must
337 be on a form as prescribed in this subsection. The commissioner's
338 signature is, as a matter of law, made under the commissioner's
339 oath of office and under penalties of perjury.

340 The certification form shall be as follows:

341 **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

342 **PER DIEM CLAIM FORM**

343 NAME: _____ COUNTY: _____
344 ADDRESS: _____ DISTRICT: _____
345 CITY: _____ ZIP: _____



PURPOSE	APPLICABLE	ACTUAL	PER DIEM
DATE	BEGINNING	ENDING	OF
WORKED	TIME	TIME	WORK
MS CODE	SECTION	HOURS	DAYS
WORKED	WORKED	EARNED	EARNED

352 TOTAL NUMBER OF PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

353 EXCLUDING ELECTION DAYS

354 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$100.00

355 TOTAL NUMBER PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

356 FOR ELECTION DAYS

357 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$150.00

358 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PER DIEM CLAIMED \$

359 I understand that I am signing this document under my oath as
 360 an election commissioner and under penalties of perjury.

361 I understand that I am requesting payment from taxpayer funds
 362 and that I have an obligation to be specific and truthful as to
 363 the amount of hours worked and the compensation I am requesting.

364 Signed this the ____ day of _____, ____.

365 _____
 366 Commissioner's Signature

367 When properly completed and signed, the certification must be
 368 filed with the clerk of the county board of supervisors before any
 369 payment may be made. The certification will be a public record



370 available for inspection and reproduction immediately upon the
371 oral or written request of any person.

372 Any person may contest the accuracy of the certification in
373 any respect by notifying the chair of the commission, any member
374 of the board of supervisors or the clerk of the board of
375 supervisors of the contest at any time before or after payment is
376 made. If the contest is made before payment is made, no payment
377 shall be made as to the contested certificate until the contest is
378 finally disposed of. The person filing the contest shall be
379 entitled to a full hearing, and the clerk of the board of
380 supervisors shall issue subpoenas upon request of the contestor
381 compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents
382 and things. The contestor shall have the right to appeal de novo
383 to the circuit court of the involved county, which appeal must be
384 perfected within thirty (30) days from a final decision of the
385 commission, the clerk of the board of supervisors or the board of
386 supervisors, as the case may be.

387 Any contestor who successfully contests any certification
388 will be awarded all expenses incident to his or her contest,
389 together with reasonable attorney's fees, which will be awarded
390 upon petition to the chancery court of the involved county upon
391 final disposition of the contest before the election commission,
392 board of supervisors, clerk of the board of supervisors, or, in
393 case of an appeal, final disposition by the court. The
394 commissioner against whom the contest is decided shall be liable



for the payment of the expenses and attorney's fees, and the county shall be jointly and severally liable for same.

(11) Any election commissioner who has not received a certificate issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 23-15-211 indicating that the election commissioner has received the required elections seminar instruction and that the election commissioner is fully qualified to conduct an election, shall not receive any compensation authorized by this section or Section 23-15-239.

SECTION 6. Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-165. (1) The Office of the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the county registrars and election commissioners, shall procure, implement and maintain an electronic information processing system and programs capable of maintaining a centralized database of all registered voters in the state. The system shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state and county level, software development training, conversion and support and maintenance for the system. This system shall be known as the "Statewide Elections Management System" and shall constitute the official record of registered voters in every county of the state.

(2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall develop and implement the Statewide Elections Management System so that the registrar and election commissioners of each county shall:



420 (a) Verify that an applicant that is registering to
421 vote in that county is not registered to vote in another county;

422 (b) Be notified automatically that a registered voter
423 in its county has registered to vote in another county;

424 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of
425 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes which cause a
426 voter to have his or her right to vote suspended that apply to
427 voters registered in the county; * * *

428 (d) Receive regular reports of voters who have
429 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements including parole but
430 not probation of his or her conviction and automatically restore
431 the voter's name into the Statewide Elections Management System,
432 the state's voter roll and the county's pollbooks; and

433 (* * *e) Retain all present functionality related to,
434 but not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement
435 such other functionality as the law requires to enhance the
436 maintenance of accurate county voter records and related jury
437 selection and redistricting programs.

438 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the
439 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the
440 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary
441 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into
442 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the
443 Statewide Elections Management System. Thereafter, all official
444 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Elections



Management System. The standard industry accepted format of data was reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed without consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

(4) The Secretary of State may, with the assistance of the advisory committee, adopt rules and regulations necessary to administer the Statewide Elections Management System. The rules and regulations shall at least:

(a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a centralized database for all voter registration information in the state;

(b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the centralized database;

(c) Provide security to ensure that only the registrar, or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law may require, can add information to, delete information from and modify information in the system;

(d) Provide the registrar or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law may require, access to the system at all times, including the ability to download copies of the industry standard file, for all purposes related to their official duties, including, but not limited to, exclusive access for the purpose of printing all local pollbooks;



469 (e) Provide security and protection of all information
470 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized
471 access is not allowed;

472 (f) Provide a procedure that will allow the registrar,
473 or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law
474 may require, to identify the precinct to which a voter should be
475 assigned; and

476 (g) Provide a procedure for phasing in or converting
477 existing manual and computerized voter registration systems in
478 counties to the Statewide Elections Management System.

479 (5) The Secretary of State established an advisory committee
480 to assist in developing system specifications, procurement,
481 implementation and maintenance of the Statewide Elections
482 Management System. The committee included two (2) representatives
483 from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by the association;
484 two (2) representatives from the Election Commissioners
485 Association of Mississippi, appointed by the association; one (1)
486 member of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or its
487 staff, appointed by the association; the Director of the Stennis
488 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, or his or
489 her designee; the Executive Director of the Department of
490 Information Technology Services, or his or her designee; two (2)
491 persons knowledgeable about elections and information technology
492 appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State,
493 who shall serve as the chair of the advisory committee.



494 (6) (a) Social security numbers, telephone numbers and date
495 of birth and age information in statewide, district, county and
496 municipal voter registration files shall be exempt from and shall
497 not be subject to inspection, examination, copying or reproduction
498 under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983.

499 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal
500 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,
501 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be
502 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public
503 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of
504 production.

505 **SECTION 7.** Section 97-39-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
506 brought forward as follows:

507 97-39-3. If any person shall fight a duel, or give or accept
508 a challenge to fight a duel, or knowingly carry or deliver such
509 challenge or the acceptance thereof, or be second to either party
510 to any duel, whether such act be done in the state or out of it,
511 or who shall go out of the state to fight a duel, or to assist in
512 the same as second, or to send, accept, or carry a challenge,
513 shall be disqualified from holding any office, be disenfranchised,
514 and incapable of holding or being elected to any post of honor,
515 profit or emolument, civil or military, under the constitution and
516 laws of this state; and the appointment of any such person to
517 office, as also all votes given to any such person, are illegal,



and none of the votes given to such person for any office shall be taken or counted.

SECTION 8. Section 99-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

99-19-37. (1) Any person who has lost the right of suffrage by reason of conviction of crime and has not been pardoned therefrom, who thereafter served honorably in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States during the periods of World War I or World War II as hereinafter defined and shall have received an honorable discharge, or release therefrom, shall by reason of such honorable service, have the full right of suffrage restored, provided, however, this does not apply to any one having an unfinished or suspended sentence.

(2) For the purposes of this section the period of World War I shall be from April 6, 1917 to December 1, 1918, and the period of World War II shall be from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946.

(3) In order to have restored, and to exercise, the right of franchise under the provisions of this section a person affected hereby shall have his discharge, or release, from the Armed Forces of the United States recorded in the office of the chancery clerk of the county in which such person desires to exercise the right of franchise and if such discharge, or release, appears to be an honorable discharge, or release, and shows such person to have served honorably during either of the periods stated in subsection



543 (2) of this section such person shall have the full right of
544 suffrage restored as though an act had been passed by the
545 Legislature in accordance with Section 253 of the Constitution of
546 the State of Mississippi restoring the right of suffrage to such
547 person.

548 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
549 and after July 1 in the year following the year in which the
550 Secretary of State certifies the passage of the constitutional
551 amendment proposed in House Concurrent Resolution 8, 2021 Regular
552 Session.

