

By: Representatives Hopkins, Williamson,
Darnell, Carpenter, Hale

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 543

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-563, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THAT ONLY A CURRENT AND VALID MISSISSIPPI'S DRIVER'S
3 LICENSE, NOT THE DRIVER'S LICENSE OF ANOTHER STATE, SHALL BE
4 CONSIDERED FOR VOTER IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-563, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 23-15-563. (1) Each person who appears to vote in person at
10 a polling place or the registrar's office shall be required to
11 identify himself or herself to a poll manager or the registrar by
12 presenting current and valid photo identification before such
13 person shall be allowed to vote.

14 (2) The identification required by subsection (1) of this
15 section shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

16 (a) A current and valid Mississippi driver's license,
17 no other state's driver's license shall be accepted;

18 (b) A current and valid identification card issued by a
19 branch, department, agency or entity of the State of Mississippi;



20 (c) A current and valid United States passport;

21 (d) A current and valid employee identification card
22 containing a photograph of the elector and issued by any branch,
23 department, agency or entity of the United States government, the
24 State of Mississippi, or any county, municipality, board,
25 authority or other entity of this state;

26 (e) A current and valid Mississippi license to carry a
27 pistol or revolver;

28 (f) A valid tribal identification card containing a
29 photograph of the elector;

30 (g) A current and valid United States military
31 identification card;

32 (h) A current and valid student identification card,
33 containing a photograph of the elector, issued by any accredited
34 college, university or community or junior college in the State of
35 Mississippi; and

36 (i) An official Mississippi voter identification card
37 containing a photograph of the elector.

38 (3) (a) A person who appears to vote in person at a polling
39 place and does not have identification as required by this section
40 may vote by affidavit ballot. The affidavit ballot shall then be
41 counted if the person shall present acceptable photo
42 identification to the registrar within five (5) days.

43 (b) An elector who has a religious objection to being
44 photographed may vote by affidavit ballot, and the elector, within



45 five (5) days after the election, shall execute an affidavit in
46 the registrar's office affirming that the exemption applies.

47 (4) The intentional failure of an election official to
48 require a voter to present identification as required by this
49 section shall be considered corrupt conduct under Section 97-13-19
50 and shall be reported to the Secretary of State and the Attorney
51 General.

52 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2021.

