

By: Representative Summers

To: Apportionment and
Elections; Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 894

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-211.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT UPON HIS OR HER DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY,
3 THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY NOT OVERSEE ANY PART OF THAT ELECTION;
4 TO PROVIDE THAT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ASSUME THE
5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THAT ELECTION; AND
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-211.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 23-15-211.1. (1) For purposes of the National Voter
11 Registration Act of 1993, the Secretary of State is designated as
12 Mississippi's chief election officer.

13 (2) As the chief election officer of the State of
14 Mississippi, the Secretary of State shall have the power and duty
15 to gather sufficient information concerning voting in elections in
16 this state. The Secretary of State shall gather information on
17 voter participation and submit an annual report to the
18 Legislature, the Governor, the Attorney General and the public.

19 (3) (a) The Secretary of State may be a candidate for any
20 other office at any election held or to be held during the



21 four-year term for which he or she has been elected to the Office
22 of Secretary of State; however, notwithstanding any other
23 provision of law to the contrary, upon his or her declaration of
24 candidacy or his or her performance of any substantive act to
25 become a candidate, the Secretary of State may not oversee any
26 part of that election.

27 (b) If the Secretary of State is prohibited from
28 overseeing the election in which he or she is a candidate as
29 provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection, then the assistant
30 secretary of state shall take the oath of office and assume all of
31 the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for that election
32 as provided in this chapter.

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

