

By: Senator(s) Sojourner, McDaniel

To: Judiciary, Division A;  
Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2613

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL  
2 PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE VERIFICATION BY THE  
3 REGISTRAR OF A PERSON'S ELIGIBILITY TO BE AN ELECTOR; TO PROVIDE  
4 THAT THOSE RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL ALSO PRESCRIBE THE  
5 PROCEDURE FOR VERIFYING A PERSON'S CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED  
6 STATES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-33 AND 23-15-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
7 OF 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Secretary of State shall promulgate  
10 rules and regulations for a registrar's verification of a person's  
11 eligibility to be an elector under Section 23-15-11.

12 (2) These rules and regulations shall prescribe the  
13 procedure for verifying an applicant's United States citizenship  
14 either:

15 (a) Through the Statewide Elections Management System;  
16 or

17 (b) By inspection of at least one (1) document, the  
18 list of which shall include, but not be limited to, a birth  
19 certificate, social security card and military identification  
20 card.



21           **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
22 amended as follows:

23           23-15-33. (1) The registrar shall verify that an applicant  
24 for registration to vote is eligible to be an elector according to  
25 the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State.  
26 No person shall be registered as provided in subsections (2) and  
27 (3) of this section unless the registrar verifies his eligibility.

28           ( \* \* \*2) Every person entitled to be registered as an  
29 elector in compliance with the laws of this state and who has  
30 signed his or her name on and properly completed the application  
31 for registration to vote shall be registered by the county  
32 registrar in the voting precinct of the residence of such person  
33 through the Statewide Elections Management System.

34           ( \* \* \*3) Every person entitled to be registered as an  
35 elector in compliance with the laws of this state and who  
36 registers to vote pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act  
37 of 1993 shall be registered by the county registrar in the voting  
38 precinct of the residence of such person through the Statewide  
39 Elections Management System.

40           **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
41 amended as follows:

42           23-15-165. (1) The Office of the Secretary of State, in  
43 cooperation with the county registrars and election commissioners,  
44 shall procure, implement and maintain an electronic information  
45 processing system and programs capable of maintaining a



46 centralized database of all registered voters in the state. The  
47 system shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state  
48 and county level, software development training, conversion and  
49 support and maintenance for the system. This system shall be  
50 known as the "Statewide Elections Management System" and shall  
51 constitute the official record of registered voters in every  
52 county of the state.

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

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

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

60 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of  
61 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes that apply to  
62 voters registered in the county; \* \* \*

63 (d) Retain all present functionality related to, but  
64 not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement such  
65 other functionality as the law requires to enhance the maintenance  
66 of accurate county voter records and related jury selection and  
67 redistricting programs \* \* \*; and

68 (e) Verify that an applicant who is registering to vote  
69 in such county is a United States citizen.



70           (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the  
71 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the  
72 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary  
73 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into  
74 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the  
75 Statewide Elections Management System. Thereafter, all official  
76 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Elections  
77 Management System. The standard industry accepted format of data  
78 was reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee  
79 created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with  
80 the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed  
81 without consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

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

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

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

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



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

101           (e) Provide security and protection of all information  
102 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized  
103 access is not allowed;

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

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

111           (5) The Secretary of State established an advisory committee  
112 to assist in developing system specifications, procurement,  
113 implementation and maintenance of the Statewide Elections  
114 Management System. The committee included two (2) representatives  
115 from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by the association;  
116 two (2) representatives from the Election Commissioners  
117 Association of Mississippi, appointed by the association; one (1)  
118 member of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or its  
119 staff, appointed by the association; the Director of the Stennis



120 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, or his or  
121 her designee; the Executive Director of the Department of  
122 Information Technology Services, or his or her designee; two (2)  
123 persons knowledgeable about elections and information technology  
124 appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State,  
125 who shall serve as the chair of the advisory committee.

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

131 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal  
132 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,  
133 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be  
134 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public  
135 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of  
136 production.

137 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
138 and after July 1, 2022.

