

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2497

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI ELECTIONS INTEGRITY ACT OF  
2 2023; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON SUBMITTING A VOTER REGISTRATION  
3 APPLICATION MUST PRESENT CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO PROVE HIS OR HER  
4 STATUS AS A UNITED STATES CITIZEN; TO CODIFY NEW SECTION  
5 23-15-15.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
6 STATEWIDE ELECTIONS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM SHALL BE COMPARED TO THE  
7 IDENTIFICATION DATABASES A SINGLE TIME TO ENSURE NON-UNITED STATES  
8 CITIZENS ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE; TO PROVIDE THE NOTIFICATION  
9 REQUIRED WHEN A NON-UNITED STATES CITIZEN IS FOUND TO BE  
10 REGISTERED TO VOTE; TO PROVIDE THE DOCUMENTATION THAT MUST BE  
11 SUBMITTED AS PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP; TO REQUIRE ELECTION  
12 COMMISSIONERS TO INSPECT ALL EXISTING VOTER ROLLS AGAINST A  
13 VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON FILE ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
14 WITHIN A CERTAIN TIMEFRAME; TO REQUIRE THE OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF  
15 THE ELECTION TO USE ONLY CERTAIN VOTING EQUIPMENT IN ANY ELECTION  
16 AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-625, MISSISSIPPI  
17 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE REGISTRAR TO COMPARE AN APPLICANT  
18 SIGNATURE ON THE APPLICATION FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT AGAINST THE  
19 VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON FILE; TO REQUIRE THE REGISTRAR TO DENY THE  
20 APPLICATION AND NOT MAIL A BALLOT IF THE SIGNATURE DOES NOT MATCH;  
21 TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-33, 23-15-39 AND 23-15-47, 23-15-165,  
22 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; TO REPEAL SECTION 23-15-15,  
23 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE DOCUMENTATION THAT A  
24 NATURALIZED CITIZEN MUST PRESENT IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO VOTE OR  
25 TO VOTE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL SECTIONS 23-15-531,  
26 23-15-531.1, 23-15-531.2, 23-15-531.3, 23-15-531.4, 23-15-531.5,  
27 23-15-531.6, 23-15-531.9, 23-15-531.10 AND 23-15-531.12,  
28 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE AUTHORITY FOR THE USE  
29 OF DIRECT RECORDING ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT AT POLLING PLACES,  
30 ON A CERTAIN DATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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



32           **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as "The  
33 Mississippi Elections Integrity Act of 2023."

34           **SECTION 2.** Any person submitting an application to be  
35 registered as an elector in compliance with the laws of this state  
36 must provide one (1) of the following documents to prove his or  
37 her United States citizenship:

38                   (a) A birth certificate or a legible photocopy of the  
39 birth certificate;

40                   (b) A United States passport, or a legible photocopy of  
41 the pertinent pages of the passport, identifying the person and  
42 showing the passport number; or

43                   (c) A United States naturalization documentation, a  
44 legible photocopy of the naturalization documentation, or the  
45 number of the voter's certificate of naturalization; except that  
46 any person who provides the number of the certificate of  
47 naturalization in lieu of the naturalization documentation shall  
48 not be deemed to have provided proof of citizenship until the  
49 registrar verifies the number with the United States Citizenship  
50 and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security or  
51 its successor.

52           **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section  
53 23-15-15.1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

54           23-15-15.1 (1) (a) The Secretary of State shall:

55                           (i) Compare the entire Statewide Elections  
56 Management System with the state's identification databases to



57 ensure non-United States citizens are not registered to vote in  
58 this state a single time within one (1) year of the effective date  
59 of this act.

60 (ii) Establish a signature database in cooperation  
61 with the Department of Public Safety in order to compare a voter's  
62 signatures on the day of voting or requesting an absentee ballot  
63 against the voter's signature on file.

64 (b) The Secretary of State is authorized to enter into  
65 a memorandum of understanding to compare the Statewide Elections  
66 Management System with relevant federal or state agencies and  
67 county records for the same purpose.

68 (c) If evidence exists that a particular registered  
69 voter is not a citizen of the United States, the Statewide  
70 Elections Management System shall notify the registrar, or his or  
71 her designee, where the person registered to vote that the  
72 registered voter may not be a citizen of the United States.

73 (2) After receiving the notice from the Statewide Elections  
74 Management System as provided in subsection (1) of this section,  
75 the registrar, or his or her designee, shall:

76 (a) Enter the registered voter's information into the  
77 United States Citizenship and Immigration Service's Systematic  
78 Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) or its successor  
79 database for further inquiry; and

80 (b) If both the state's identification databases and  
81 the database in paragraph (a) of this subsection indicate that the



82 registered voter is a noncitizen, send a notice to the registered  
83 voter inquiring whether the individual is eligible to be  
84 registered to vote.

85 (3) Any registered voter who receives the notice under  
86 subsection (2)(b) of this section shall, within thirty (30) days  
87 of the receipt of such notice, provide proof of citizenship to the  
88 registrar or his or her designee.

89 (4) For purposes of this subsection (4), proof of  
90 citizenship includes, but is not limited to:

91 (a) The voter's birth certificate or a legible  
92 photocopy of the birth certificate;

93 (b) A United States passport, or a legible photocopy of  
94 the pertinent pages of the passport, identifying the voter and  
95 showing the passport number; or

96 (c) The voter's United States naturalization  
97 documentation, a legible photocopy of the naturalization  
98 documentation, or the number of the voter's Certificate of  
99 Naturalization; except that any person who provides the number of  
100 the Certificate of Naturalization in lieu of the naturalization  
101 documentation shall not be deemed to have provided proof of  
102 citizenship until the Secretary of State verifies the number with  
103 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in the  
104 department of Homeland Security or its successor.

105 (5) If the registered voter does not provide proof of  
106 citizenship within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the



107 notification, the registrar of the county, or his or her designee,  
108 where the person registered to vote shall purge the voter from the  
109 Statewide Elections Management System.

110 (6) In the event a voter is unable to provide any  
111 documentation listed in subsection (3) of this section to show  
112 proof of citizenship, the voter may appeal to the Board of  
113 Election Commissioners of the county in which he or she attempted  
114 to register and submit additional proof of citizenship in person  
115 or in writing. The Board of Election Commissioners shall conduct  
116 a hearing and make a finding concerning the individual's  
117 citizenship status and shall forward a copy of their decision to  
118 the registrar, or his or her designee, of the county where the  
119 person resides as established in Section 23-15-61. The Statewide  
120 Elections Management System shall be changed by the registrar, or  
121 his or her designee, to accurately reflect the decision of the  
122 Board of Election Commissioners with respect to such voter.

123 (7) All documentation provided to show proof of citizenship  
124 as well as the Department of Public Safety database or relevant  
125 federal and state agency and county records shall be confidential  
126 and shall not be available for inspection by the public.

127 (8) Election commissioners shall inspect all existing voter  
128 rolls against a voter's signature on file under subsection  
129 (1)(a)(ii) within one (1) year of July 1, 2023.

130 (8) The Secretary of State shall adopt the necessary rules  
131 and regulations for the administration of this section.



132           **SECTION 4.** (1) "Voting system" means any voting machine,  
133 voting device, precinct ballot scanner, ballot marking device,  
134 tabulation server or vote tabulating device that:

135                           (i) Does not utilize pre-scored punch card  
136 ballots; and

137                           (ii) Meets the certification requirements  
138 promulgated by the Secretary of State.

139           (2) For any election held in this state after January 1,  
140 2025, the officials in charge of the election shall only use  
141 voting systems as defined by subsection (1) of this section.

142           (3) For any election held in this state after January 1,  
143 2025, the officials in charge of the election shall only use  
144 voting machines, voting devices, precinct ballot scanners, ballot  
145 marking devices or vote tabulating devices that:

146                           (a) Do not have the capability of wireless remote  
147 connections; or

148                           (b) Have the capacity for all wireless connection  
149 capabilities to be disabled.

150           (4) For any election held in this state after January 1,  
151 2025, the officials in charge of the election shall only use  
152 voting machines, voting devices, precinct ballot scanners, ballot  
153 marking devices or vote tabulating devices that have a means of  
154 identification so that the scanner cannot count any ballot more  
155 than once.



156 (5) The Secretary of State shall adopt and publish  
157 certifications to enforce this section.

158 **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-625, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
159 amended as follows:

160 23-15-625. (1) The registrar shall be responsible for  
161 providing applications for absentee voting as provided in this  
162 section. At least sixty (60) days before any election in which  
163 absentee voting is provided for by law, the registrar shall  
164 provide a sufficient number of applications. In the event a  
165 special election is called and set at a date which makes it  
166 impractical or impossible to prepare applications for absent  
167 elector's ballot sixty (60) days before the election, the  
168 registrar shall provide applications as soon as practicable after  
169 the election is called. The registrar shall fill in the date of  
170 the particular election on the application for which the  
171 application will be used.

172 (2) (a) The registrar shall be authorized to disburse  
173 applications for absentee ballots to any qualified elector within  
174 the county where he or she serves. Any person who presents to the  
175 registrar an oral or written request for an absentee ballot  
176 application for a voter entitled to vote absentee by mail, other  
177 than the elector who seeks to vote by absentee ballot, shall, in  
178 the presence of the registrar, sign the application and print on  
179 the application his or her name and address and the name of the  
180 elector for whom the application is being requested in the place



181 provided for on the application for that purpose. However, if for  
182 any reason such person is unable to write the information  
183 required, then the registrar shall write the information on a  
184 printed form which has been prescribed by the Secretary of State.  
185 The form shall provide a place for such person to place his or her  
186 mark after the form has been filled out by the registrar.

187 (b) This signature shall be compared against the  
188 signature on file in the database provided for in Section  
189 23-15-15.1. If the signature does not match, the application  
190 shall be rejected and no ballot shall be mailed.

191 (3) It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit absentee  
192 ballot applications or absentee ballots for persons staying in any  
193 skilled nursing facility as defined in Section 41-7-173 unless the  
194 person soliciting the absentee ballot applications or absentee  
195 ballots is:

196 (a) A family member of the person staying in the  
197 skilled nursing facility; or

198 (b) A person designated by the person for whom the  
199 absentee ballot application or absentee ballot is sought, the  
200 registrar or the deputy registrar.

201 As used in this subsection, "family member" means a spouse,  
202 parent, grandparent, sibling, adult child, grandchild or legal  
203 guardian.

204 (4) The registrar in the county wherein a voter is qualified  
205 to vote upon receiving by mail the envelope containing the





206 absentee ballots shall keep an accurate list of all persons  
207 preparing such ballots. The list shall be kept in a conspicuous  
208 place accessible to the public near the entrance to the  
209 registrar's office. The registrar shall also furnish to each  
210 precinct manager a list of the names of all persons in each  
211 respective precinct voting absentee by mail and in person to be  
212 posted in a conspicuous place at the polling place for public  
213 notice. The application on file with the registrar and the  
214 envelopes containing the ballots that voters mailed to the  
215 registrar shall be kept by the registrar in his or her office in a  
216 secure location. At the time such boxes are delivered to the  
217 election commissioners or managers, the registrar shall also turn  
218 over a list of all such persons who have voted and whose mailed  
219 ballots are in the registrar's office.

220 (5) The registrar shall also be authorized to mail one (1)  
221 application to any qualified elector of the county, who is  
222 eligible to vote by absentee ballot, for use in a particular  
223 election.

224 (6) The registrar shall process all applications for  
225 absentee ballots by using the Statewide Election Management  
226 System. The registrar shall account for all absentee ballots  
227 delivered to and received by mail as well as those who voted  
228 absentee in person from qualified voters by processing such  
229 ballots using the Statewide Election Management System.



230           **SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
231 amended as follows:

232           23-15-33. (1) Every person entitled to be registered as an  
233 elector in compliance with the laws of this state and who (a) has  
234 signed his or her name on and properly completed the application  
235 for registration to vote; and (b) has submitted proof of his or  
236 her United States citizenship as provided in Section 2 of this act  
237 shall be registered by the county registrar in the voting precinct  
238 of the residence of such person through the Statewide Elections  
239 Management System.

240           (2) Every person entitled to be registered as an elector in  
241 compliance with the laws of this state and who registers to vote  
242 pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 shall be  
243 registered by the county registrar in the voting precinct of the  
244 residence of such person through the Statewide Elections  
245 Management System.

246           **SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
247 amended as follows:

248           23-15-39. (1) Applications for registration as electors of  
249 this state, which are sworn to and subscribed before the registrar  
250 or deputy registrar authorized by law and which are not made by  
251 mail, shall be made upon a form established by rule duly adopted  
252 by the Secretary of State. Applications for registration shall  
253 include a portion allowing the applicant to indicate his or her  
254 United States citizenship status and shall instruct the applicant



255 to submit proof of such citizenship by presenting a document  
256 listed in Section 2 of this act.

257 (2) The boards of supervisors shall make proper allowances  
258 for office supplies reasonably necessitated by the registration of  
259 county electors.

260 (3) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or  
261 she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county  
262 of registration, the county registrar shall process the  
263 application for registration or changes to the registration as  
264 provided by law.

265 (4) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or  
266 she has previously registered to vote in another county of this  
267 state or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of  
268 registration in this state shall be provided by the Statewide  
269 Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of  
270 registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the  
271 voter's previous state of residence if the Statewide Elections  
272 Management System has that capability.

273 (5) The county registrar shall provide to the person making  
274 the application a copy of the application upon which has been  
275 written the county voting precinct and municipal voting precinct,  
276 if any, in which the person shall vote. Upon entry of the voter  
277 registration information into the Statewide Elections Management  
278 System, the system shall assign a voter registration number to the  
279 person, and the county registrar shall mail the applicant a voter



280 registration card to the mailing address provided on the  
281 application.

282 (6) Any person desiring an application for registration may  
283 secure an application from the registrar of the county of which he  
284 or she is a resident and may take the application with him or her  
285 and secure assistance in completing the application from any  
286 person of the applicant's choice. It shall be the duty of all  
287 registrars to furnish applications for registration to all persons  
288 requesting them, and it shall likewise be the registrar's duty to  
289 furnish aid and assistance in the completing of the application  
290 when requested by an applicant. The application for registration  
291 shall be sworn to and subscribed before the registrar or deputy  
292 registrar at the municipal clerk's office, the county registrar's  
293 office or any other location where the applicant is allowed to  
294 register to vote. The registrar shall not charge a fee or cost to  
295 the applicant for accepting the application or administering the  
296 oath or for any other duty imposed by law regarding the  
297 registration of electors.

298 (7) If the person making the application is unable to read  
299 or write, for reason of disability or otherwise, he or she shall  
300 not be required to personally complete the application in writing  
301 and execute the oath. In such cases, the registrar or deputy  
302 registrar shall read the application and oath to the person and  
303 the person's answers thereto shall be recorded by the registrar or  
304 the registrar's deputy. The person shall be registered as an



305 elector if he or she otherwise meets the requirements to be  
306 registered as an elector. The registrar shall record the  
307 responses of the person and the recorded responses shall be  
308 retained permanently by the registrar. The county registrar shall  
309 enter the voter registration information into the Statewide  
310 Elections Management System and designate the entry as an assisted  
311 filing.

312 (8) The receipt of a copy of the application for  
313 registration sent pursuant to Section 23-15-35(2) shall be  
314 sufficient to allow the applicant to be registered as an elector  
315 of this state, if the application is not challenged.

316 (9) In any case in which the corporate boundaries of a  
317 municipality change, whether by annexation or redistricting, the  
318 municipal clerk shall, within ten (10) days after approval of the  
319 change in corporate boundaries, provide to the county registrar  
320 conforming geographic data that is compatible with the Statewide  
321 Elections Management System. The data shall be developed by the  
322 municipality's use of a standardized format specified by the  
323 Statewide Elections Management System. The county registrar,  
324 county election commissioner or other county official, who has  
325 completed an annual training seminar sponsored by the Secretary of  
326 State pertaining to the implementation of new boundary lines in  
327 the Statewide Elections Management System and received  
328 certification for that training, shall update the municipal  
329 boundary information into the Statewide Elections Management



330 System. The Statewide Elections Management System updates the  
331 municipal voter registration records and assigns electors to their  
332 municipal voting precincts. The county registrar shall forward to  
333 the municipal clerk written notification of the additions and  
334 changes, and the municipal clerk shall forward to the affected  
335 municipal electors written notification of the additions and  
336 changes.

337 **SECTION 8.** Section 23-15-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
338 amended as follows:

339 23-15-47. (1) Any person who is qualified to register to  
340 vote in the State of Mississippi may register to vote by mail-in  
341 application in the manner prescribed in this section.

342 (2) The following procedure shall be used in the  
343 registration of electors by mail:

344 (a) Any qualified elector may register to vote by  
345 mailing or delivering a completed mail-in application to his or  
346 her county registrar at least thirty (30) days before any  
347 election; however, if the thirtieth day to register before an  
348 election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration  
349 applications submitted on the business day immediately following  
350 the Sunday or legal holiday shall be accepted and entered into the  
351 Statewide Elections Management System for the purpose of enabling  
352 voters to vote in the next election. The postmark date of a  
353 mailed application shall be the applicant's date of registration.



354           (b) Upon receipt of a mail-in application, the county  
355 registrar shall stamp the application with the date of receipt,  
356 and shall verify the application either by matching the  
357 applicant's Mississippi driver's license number through the  
358 Mississippi Department of Public Safety or by matching the  
359 applicant's social security number through the American  
360 Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Additionally, the  
361 county registrar shall verify that the applicant has submitted  
362 proof of his or her United States citizenship by attaching a  
363 document listed in Section 2 of this act to the application.  
364 Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of a mail-in registration  
365 application, the county registrar shall complete action on the  
366 application, including any attempts to notify the applicant of the  
367 status of his or her application.

368           (c) If the county registrar determines that the  
369 applicant is qualified and his or her application is legible and  
370 complete, the county registrar shall mail the applicant written  
371 notification that the application has been approved, specifying  
372 the county voting precinct, municipal voting precinct, if any,  
373 polling place and supervisor district in which the person shall  
374 vote. This written notification of approval containing the  
375 specified information shall be the voter's registration card. The  
376 registration card shall be provided by the county registrar to the  
377 applicant in accordance with Section 23-15-39. Upon entry of the  
378 voter registration information into the Statewide Elections



379 Management System, the system shall assign a voter registration  
380 number to the applicant. The assigned voter registration number  
381 shall be clearly shown on the written notification of approval.  
382 In mailing the written notification, the county registrar shall  
383 note the following on the envelope: "DO NOT FORWARD." If any  
384 registration notification form is returned as undeliverable, the  
385 voter's registration shall be void.

386 (d) A mail-in application shall be rejected for any of  
387 the following reasons:

388 (i) An incomplete portion of the application makes  
389 it impossible for the registrar to determine the eligibility of  
390 the applicant to register;

391 (ii) A portion of the application is illegible in  
392 the opinion of the county registrar and makes it impossible to  
393 determine the eligibility of the applicant to register;

394 (iii) The county registrar is unable to determine,  
395 from the address and information stated on the application, the  
396 precinct in which the voter should be assigned or the supervisor  
397 district in which he or she is entitled to vote;

398 (iv) The applicant is not qualified to register to  
399 vote pursuant to Section 23-15-11;

400 (v) The county registrar determines that the  
401 applicant is already registered as a qualified elector of the  
402 county;





403 (vi) The county registrar is unable to verify the  
404 application pursuant to \* \* \* paragraph (b) of this subsection.

405 (e) If the mail-in application of a person is subject  
406 to rejection for any of the reasons set forth in paragraph (d)(i)  
407 through (iii) of this subsection, and it appears to the county  
408 registrar that the defect or omission is of such a minor nature  
409 and that any necessary additional information may be supplied by  
410 the applicant over the telephone or by further correspondence, the  
411 county registrar may write or call the applicant at the telephone  
412 number or address, or both, provided on the application. If the  
413 county registrar is able to contact the applicant by mail or  
414 telephone, the county registrar shall attempt to ascertain the  
415 necessary information, and if this information is sufficient for  
416 the registrar to complete the application, the applicant shall be  
417 registered. If the necessary information cannot be obtained by  
418 mail or telephone, or is not sufficient to complete the  
419 application within fourteen (14) days of receipt, the county  
420 registrar shall give the applicant written notice of the rejection  
421 and provide the reason for the rejection. The county registrar  
422 shall further inform the applicant that he or she has a right to  
423 attempt to register by appearing in person or by filing another  
424 mail-in application.

425 (f) If a mail-in application is subject to rejection  
426 for the reason stated in paragraph (d)(v) of this subsection and  
427 the "present home address" portion of the application is different



428 from the residence address for the applicant found in the  
429 Statewide Elections Management System, the mail-in application  
430 shall be deemed a written request to update the voter's  
431 registration pursuant to Section 23-15-13. The county registrar  
432 or the election commissioners shall update the voter's residence  
433 address in the Statewide Elections Management System and, if  
434 necessary, advise the voter of a change in the location of his or  
435 her county or municipal polling place by mailing the voter a new  
436 voter registration card.

437 (3) The instructions and the application form for voter  
438 registration by mail shall be in a form established by rule duly  
439 adopted by the Secretary of State.

440 (4) (a) The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish  
441 without charge the necessary forms for application for voter  
442 registration by mail to each county registrar, municipal clerk,  
443 all public schools, each private school that requests such  
444 applications, and all public libraries.

445 (b) The Secretary of State shall distribute without  
446 charge sufficient forms for application for voter registration by  
447 mail to the Commissioner of Public Safety, who shall distribute  
448 the forms to each driver's license examining and renewal station  
449 in the state, and shall ensure that the forms are regularly  
450 available to the public at such stations.

451 (c) Bulk quantities of forms for application for voter  
452 registration by mail shall be furnished by the Secretary of State



453 to any person or organization. The Secretary of State shall  
454 charge a person or organization the actual cost he or she incurs  
455 in providing bulk quantities of forms for application for voter  
456 registration to such person or organization.

457 (5) The originals of completed mail-in applications shall  
458 remain on file in the office of the county registrar with copies  
459 retained in the Statewide Elections Management System.

460 (6) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or  
461 she resides within the city limits of a city or town in the county  
462 of registration, the county registrar shall enter the information  
463 into the Statewide Elections Management System.

464 (7) If the applicant indicates on the application that he or  
465 she has previously registered to vote in another county of this  
466 state or another state, notice to the voter's previous county of  
467 registration in this state shall be provided through the Statewide  
468 Elections Management System. If the voter's previous place of  
469 registration was in another state, notice shall be provided to the  
470 voter's previous state of residence.

471 (8) Any person who attempts to register to vote by mail  
472 shall be subject to the penalties for false registration provided  
473 for in Section 23-15-17.

474 **SECTION 9.** Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
475 amended as follows:

476 23-15-165. (1) The Office of the Secretary of State, in  
477 cooperation with the county registrars and election commissioners,



478 shall procure, implement and maintain an electronic information  
479 processing system and programs capable of maintaining a  
480 centralized database of all registered voters in the state. The  
481 system shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state  
482 and county level, software development training, conversion and  
483 support and maintenance for the system. This system shall be  
484 known as the "Statewide Elections Management System" and shall  
485 constitute the official record of registered voters in every  
486 county of the state.

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

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

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

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

497 (d) Retain all present functionality related to, but  
498 not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement such  
499 other functionality as the law requires to enhance the maintenance  
500 of accurate county voter records and related jury selection and  
501 redistricting programs \* \* \*; and



502           (e) When evidence exists that a particular registered  
503 voter may not be a citizen of the United States, send notification  
504 to the registrar of the location where the person is registered to  
505 vote.

506           (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the  
507 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the  
508 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary  
509 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into  
510 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the  
511 Statewide Elections Management System. Thereafter, all official  
512 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Elections  
513 Management System. The standard industry accepted format of data  
514 was reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee  
515 created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with  
516 the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed  
517 without consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

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

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

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



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

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

537           (e) Provide security and protection of all information  
538 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized  
539 access is not allowed;

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

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

547           (5) The Secretary of State established an advisory committee  
548 to assist in developing system specifications, procurement,  
549 implementation and maintenance of the Statewide Elections  
550 Management System. The committee included two (2) representatives  
551 from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by the association;



552 two (2) representatives from the Election Commissioners  
553 Association of Mississippi, appointed by the association; one (1)  
554 member of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or its  
555 staff, appointed by the association; the Director of the Stennis  
556 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, or his or  
557 her designee; the Executive Director of the Department of  
558 Information Technology Services, or his or her designee; two (2)  
559 persons knowledgeable about elections and information technology  
560 appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State,  
561 who shall serve as the chair of the advisory committee.

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

567 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal  
568 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,  
569 telephone numbers and date of birth and age information, shall be  
570 provided to any person in accordance with the Mississippi Public  
571 Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of  
572 production.

573 **SECTION 10.** Section 23-15-15, Mississippi Code of 1972,  
574 which provides that any person who has acquired citizenship by  
575 order or decree of naturalization and who is otherwise qualified  
576 to register and vote under the laws of the State of Mississippi



577 shall present or exhibit to the registrar of the county of his or  
578 her residence, at or before the time he or she may offer to  
579 register, a certified copy of the final order or decree of  
580 naturalization, or a Certificate of Naturalization or duplicate  
581 thereof, or a certified copy of such Certificate of Naturalization  
582 or duplicate in order to be allowed to register or to vote, is  
583 repealed.

584         **SECTION 11.** Sections 23-15-531, 23-15-531.1, 23-15-531.2,  
585 23-15-531.3, 23-15-531.4, 23-15-531.5, 23-15-531.6, 23-15-531.9,  
586 23-15-531.10 and 23-15-531.12, Mississippi Code of 1972, which  
587 provide the authority for the use of direct recording electronic  
588 voting equipment at polling places, shall stand repealed on  
589 December 1, 2023.

590         **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
591 and after July 1, 2023.

