

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2771

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-5, 9-7-7,
2 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-14, 9-7-15, 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20,
3 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-27, 9-7-29, 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32,
4 9-7-33, 9-7-34, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-43,
5 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-51, 9-7-53, 9-7-54, 9-7-55,
6 9-7-57, 9-7-63 AND 9-7-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE
7 FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES, DISTRICTS AND TERMS OF COURT FOR
8 DISTRICTS ONE TO TWENTY-THREE, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT;
9 TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3, 9-5-5, 9-5-7, 9-5-9,
10 9-5-11, 9-5-13, 9-5-17, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-25,
11 9-5-27, 9-5-29, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-36, 9-5-37, 9-5-38,
12 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-50,
13 9-5-51, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55, 9-5-57 AND 9-5-58, MISSISSIPPI
14 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR CHANCERY COURT JUDGES, DISTRICTS
15 AND TERMS OF COURT FOR DISTRICTS ONE TO TWENTY, FOR PURPOSES OF
16 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI
17 CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE NUMBER OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS IN
18 EACH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT;
19 TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
20 AUTHORIZES THE NUMBER OF FULL-TIME CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS IN EACH
21 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND
22 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

23 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Legislature under
24 Section 152 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 to divide the
25 state into an appropriate number of circuit and chancery court
26 districts; and

27 WHEREAS, the Legislature has investigated the state of the
28 trial courts and the trial court districts and has considered the



29 needs of the state according to all the criteria imposed by the
30 Constitution and by general law; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

32 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 brought forward as follows:

34 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
35 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
36 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 1990. He
37 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
38 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
39 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
40 the first day of January 1931 and their terms of office shall
41 continue for four (4) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident
42 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be
43 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
44 divided into subdistricts.

45 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
46 brought forward as follows:

47 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
48 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the
49 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
50 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
51 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
52 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be
53 held in circuit court districts consisting of a single county on



54 the same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open
55 for business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
56 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
57 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
58 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
59 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
60 A matter in court may extend past a term if the interest of
61 justice so requires.

62 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
63 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
64 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
65 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
66 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to
67 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
68 court shall commence and the number of days for which the terms
69 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
70 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
71 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
72 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all
73 Mississippi Bar members. If an order is not timely entered, the
74 terms of court for each of the counties within any circuit court
75 district shall remain unchanged for the next calendar year. A
76 certified copy of any order entered under the provisions of this
77 subsection shall, immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered



78 to the clerk of the board of supervisors in each of the counties
79 within the circuit court district.

80 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
81 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
82 criteria:

- 83 (a) The population of the district;
- 84 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 85 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
- 86 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 87 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
88 court personnel of the district; and
- 89 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

90 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
91 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
92 the appropriate:

- 93 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
94 applying the above criteria;
- 95 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
96 data; and
- 97 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

98 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
99 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
100 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
101 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
102 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,



103 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of The
104 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
105 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
106 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county. A circuit
107 court judge shall have the right to assign criminal matters to
108 county court as provided in Section 9-9-21.

109 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
110 brought forward as follows:

111 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District is composed of the
112 following counties:

- 113 (a) Alcorn County;
- 114 (b) Itawamba County;
- 115 (c) Lee County;
- 116 (d) Monroe County;
- 117 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 118 (f) Prentiss County; and
- 119 (g) Tishomingo County.

120 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
121 brought forward as follows:

122 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
123 Circuit Court District.

124 (2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
125 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
126 "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The
127 judge to fill Place One must reside in Alcorn, Prentiss or



128 Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place Three
129 must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe or Pontotoc County. The
130 judge to fill Place Four may be a resident of any county in the
131 district. Election of the four (4) offices of judge shall be by
132 election to be held in every county within the First Circuit Court
133 District.

134 **SECTION 5.** Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
135 brought forward as follows:

136 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District is composed of the
137 following counties:

- 138 (a) Hancock County;
- 139 (b) Harrison County; and
- 140 (c) Stone County.

141 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
142 brought forward as follows:

143 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the Second
144 Circuit Court District.

145 (2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
146 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
147 "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

148 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
149 brought forward as follows:

150 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District is composed of the
151 following counties:

- 152 (a) Benton County;



- 153 (b) Calhoun County;
154 (c) Chickasaw County;
155 (d) Lafayette County;
156 (e) Marshall County;
157 (f) Tippah County; and
158 (g) Union County.

159 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
160 brought forward as follows:

161 9-7-14. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Third
162 Circuit Court District.

163 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
164 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
165 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

166 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
167 brought forward as follows:

168 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
169 composed of the following counties:

- 170 (a) Leflore County;
171 (b) Sunflower County; and
172 (c) Washington County.

173 (2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
174 four (4) subdistricts as follows:

175 (a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of the following
176 precincts in the following counties:



177 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,
178 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi
179 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

180 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
181 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
182 Ruleville North Precincts.

183 (b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of the following
184 precincts in the following counties:

185 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,
186 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South and Indianola 3 Northeast
187 Precincts; and

188 (ii) Washington County: Extension Building, Faith
189 Lutheran Church, American Legion, Metcalfe City Hall, Elks Club,
190 Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Light and Water Plant and
191 Greenville Industrial College Precincts.

192 (c) Subdistrict 4-3 shall consist of the following
193 precincts in the following counties:

194 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East
195 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta
196 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,
197 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

198 (ii) Sunflower County: Moorhead, Inverness,
199 Indianola 2 West and Indianola 2 East Precincts; and



200 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
201 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
202 Bourbon Store Precincts.

203 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
204 precincts in Washington County: St. James Episcopal Church,
205 Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic, Italian Club,
206 Ward's Recreation Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Avon
207 Health Center, Kapco Company, Brent Center, William Percy Library
208 and Grace Methodist Church Precincts.

209 (3) The local contributions required for the maintenance of
210 the Fourth Circuit Court District shall be paid on a pro rata
211 basis each by Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties.

212 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
213 brought forward as follows:

214 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
215 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
216 elected from each subdistrict.

217 **SECTION 11.** Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
218 brought forward as follows:

219 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District is composed of the
220 following counties:

- 221 (a) Attala County;
- 222 (b) Carroll County;
- 223 (c) Choctaw County;
- 224 (d) Grenada County;



- 225 (e) Montgomery County;
226 (f) Webster County; and
227 (g) Winston County.

228 **SECTION 12.** Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
229 brought forward as follows:

230 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
231 Circuit Court District.

232 (2) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
233 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
234 "Place One" and "Place Two."

235 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
236 brought forward as follows:

237 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
238 the following counties:

- 239 (a) Adams County;
240 (b) Amite County;
241 (c) Franklin County; and
242 (d) Wilkinson County.

243 (2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
244 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

245 (a) Subdistrict 6-1 shall consist of Wilkinson County
246 and the following precincts in the following counties:

- 247 (i) Adams County: Airport, By-Pass Fire Station,
248 Carpenter, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Foster Mound,



249 Maryland*, Northside School, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*;
250 and

251 (ii) Amite County: Ariel, Berwick, Crosby, East
252 Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*, Homochitto, South Liberty*
253 and Street.

254 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County
255 and the following precincts in the following counties:

256 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
257 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
258 Park, Maryland*, Morgantown, Oakland, Palestine and Washington*;
259 and

260 (ii) Amite County: Amite River, East Fork, East
261 Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion, Oneil,
262 Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw, Walls
263 and Zion Hills.

264 (3) There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixth Circuit
265 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
266 distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

267 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
268 brought forward as follows:

269 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
270 Hinds County.

271 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
272 four (4) subdistricts in Hinds County as follows:



273 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
274 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
275 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
276 and 97.

277 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
278 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
279 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
280 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

281 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
282 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
283 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
284 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89, and Jackson State.

285 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
286 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
287 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
288 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
289 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
290 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

291 **SECTION 15.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
292 brought forward as follows:

293 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
294 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
295 from each subdistrict.

296 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
297 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them



298 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
299 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
300 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
301 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
302 of the court.

303 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
304 brought forward as follows:

305 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District is composed
306 of the following counties:

- 307 (a) Leake County;
- 308 (b) Neshoba County;
- 309 (c) Newton County; and
- 310 (d) Scott County.

311 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
312 Court District.

313 (3) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
314 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
315 "Place One" and "Place Two."

316 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
317 brought forward as follows:

318 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of
319 the following counties:

- 320 (a) Issaquena County;
- 321 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 322 (c) Warren County.



323 (2) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
324 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

325 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County,
326 Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61
327 Store*, American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove*,
328 Kings*, Number 7 Fire Station*, St. Aloysius and Vicksburg Junior
329 High School*.

330 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following
331 precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Bovina, Cedar
332 Grove*, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Jett, Kings*, Moose Lodge,
333 Number 7 Fire Station*, Oak Ridge, Plumbers Hall, Redwood,
334 Tingleville, Vicksburg Junior High School*, YMCA and Yokena.

335 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-7-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
336 brought forward as follows:

337 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
338 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
339 subdistrict.

340 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
341 brought forward as follows:

342 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
343 following counties:

- 344 (a) Clarke County;
- 345 (b) Kemper County;
- 346 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 347 (d) Wayne County.



348 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
349 brought forward as follows:

350 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
351 Circuit Court District.

352 (2) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
353 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
354 "Place One" and "Place Two."

355 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
356 brought forward as follows:

357 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
358 of the following counties:

- 359 (a) Bolivar County;
- 360 (b) Coahoma County;
- 361 (c) Quitman County; and
- 362 (d) Tunica County.

363 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
364 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

365 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of the following
366 precincts from the following counties:

- 367 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle,
368 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East
369 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, Gunnison, Longshot, North Cleveland,
370 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace, Scott, Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*,
371 Stringtown, West Central Cleveland, West Cleveland and West
372 Rosedale; and



373 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo, Clarksdale 2-4*,
374 Clarksdale 5-4*, Farrell*, Rena Lara and Sherard*.

375 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of the following
376 precincts from the following counties:

377 (i) Bolivar County: Cleveland Eastgate,
378 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
379 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Renova, Shelby, South
380 Cleveland* and Winstonville;

381 (ii) Coahoma County: Cagle Crossing, Clarksdale
382 1-4*, Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4, Clarksdale 4-2, Clarksdale
383 4-3, Dublin and Roundaway; and

384 (iii) Quitman County: Belen*, District 3 South*,
385 Lambert, Northwest Marks, Southwest Marks and West Lambert.

386 (c) Subdistricts 11-3 shall consist of Tunica County
387 and the following precincts in the following counties:

388 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 1-4*, Clarksdale
389 2-4*, Clarksdale 5-4*, Coahoma, Farrell*, Friar's Point,
390 Jonestown, Lula, Lyon and Sherard*; and

391 (ii) Quitman County: Belen*, Crenshaw, Crowder,
392 Darling, District 3 North, District 3 South* and Sledge.

393 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
394 brought forward as follows:

395 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
396 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
397 subdistrict.



398 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
399 brought forward as follows:

400 9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District is composed
401 of the following counties:

402 (a) Forrest County; and

403 (b) Perry County.

404 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth Circuit
405 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
406 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
407 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

408 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
409 brought forward as follows:

410 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
411 composed of the following counties:

412 (a) Covington County;

413 (b) Jasper County;

414 (c) Simpson County; and

415 (d) Smith County.

416 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Thirteenth Circuit
417 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
418 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
419 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

420 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
421 brought forward as follows:



422 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
423 composed of the following counties:

- 424 (a) Lincoln County;
- 425 (b) Pike County; and
- 426 (c) Walthall County.

427 (2) (a) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth
428 Circuit Court District.

429 (b) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
430 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
431 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

432 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
433 brought forward as follows:

434 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
435 the following counties:

- 436 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 437 (b) Lamar County;
- 438 (c) Lawrence County;
- 439 (d) Marion County; and
- 440 (e) Pearl River County.

441 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
442 brought forward as follows:

443 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
444 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

445 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
446 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as



447 "Place One," "Place Two," and "Place Three." The judge to fill
448 Place One must be a resident of Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence
449 or Marion County. The judge to fill Place Two may be a resident
450 of any county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three must
451 be a resident of Pearl River County.

452 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
453 brought forward as follows:

454 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
455 the following counties:

- 456 (a) Clay County;
- 457 (b) Lowndes County;
- 458 (c) Noxubee County; and
- 459 (d) Oktibbeha County.

460 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
461 brought forward as follows:

462 9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
463 Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

464 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
465 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
466 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three." The judge to fill
467 Place One must be a resident of Lowndes County. The judge to fill
468 Place Two must be a resident of Oktibbeha County. The judge to
469 fill Place Three must be a resident of either Clay or Noxubee
470 County. Election of the three (3) offices of judge shall be by



471 election to be held in every county within the Sixteenth Circuit
472 Court District.

473 **SECTION 30.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
474 brought forward as follows:

475 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
476 composed of the following counties:

- 477 (a) Panola County;
- 478 (b) Tallahatchie County;
- 479 (c) Tate County; and
- 480 (d) Yalobusha County.

481 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
482 brought forward as follows:

483 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
484 County.

485 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
486 brought forward as follows:

487 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District is
488 composed of the following counties:

- 489 (a) George County;
- 490 (b) Greene County; and
- 491 (c) Jackson County.

492 (2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of
493 the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to
494 George and Greene Counties, the amount of their present local



495 contribution in their present respective circuit court districts,
496 and any excess shall be paid by Jackson County.

497 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
498 brought forward as follows:

499 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
500 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. The three (3) judgeships shall
501 be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
502 appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and
503 "Place Three."

504 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
505 District may divide the court of any county within the district
506 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
507 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
508 court.

509 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
510 brought forward as follows:

511 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District is composed of
512 the following counties:

513 (a) Madison County; and

514 (b) Rankin County.

515 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
516 brought forward as follows:

517 9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
518 Twentieth Circuit Court District.



519 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
520 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
521 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three." The judge to fill
522 Place One must reside in Rankin County, the judge to fill Place
523 Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to fill Place
524 Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

525 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
526 brought forward as follows:

527 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District is composed
528 of the following counties:

- 529 (a) Holmes County;
- 530 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 531 (c) Yazoo County.

532 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
533 brought forward as follows:

534 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District is composed
535 of the following counties:

- 536 (a) Claiborne County;
- 537 (b) Copiah County; and
- 538 (c) Jefferson County.

539 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
540 brought forward as follows:

541 9-7-63. The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall be
542 DeSoto County.



543 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
544 brought forward as follows:

545 9-7-64. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
546 Twenty-third Circuit Court District.

547 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the two
548 (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated as
549 "Place One" and "Place Two."

550 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
551 brought forward as follows:

552 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
553 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
554 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
555 existed on October 1, 1990. He shall hold court in any other
556 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
557 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
558 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
559 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
560 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a
561 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be
562 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
563 divided into subdistricts.

564 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
565 brought forward as follows:

566 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
567 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and



568 composed of the counties as set forth in the sections which
569 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
570 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
571 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
572 twice a year. Court shall be held in chancery court districts
573 consisting of a single county on the same dates state agencies and
574 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
575 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
576 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
577 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
578 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
579 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
580 a term if the interest of justice so requires.

581 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
582 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
583 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
584 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
585 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to
586 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which terms of court
587 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
588 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
589 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
590 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
591 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
592 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court



593 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
594 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.

595 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
596 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
597 following criteria:

598 (a) The population of the district;

599 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;

600 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;

601 (d) The geographic area of the district;

602 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
603 court personnel of the district; and

604 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

605 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
606 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
607 the appropriate:

608 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
609 applying the above criteria;

610 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
611 data; and

612 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

613 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
614 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
615 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
616 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
617 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served



618 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
619 the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the
620 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
621 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
622 of more than one (1) county.

623 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
624 brought forward as follows:

625 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District is composed of the
626 following counties:

- 627 (a) Alcorn County;
- 628 (b) Itawamba County;
- 629 (c) Lee County;
- 630 (d) Monroe County;
- 631 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 632 (f) Prentiss County;
- 633 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 634 (h) Union County.

635 **SECTION 43.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
636 brought forward as follows:

637 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
638 First Chancery Court District.

639 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
640 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
641 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
642 The chancellor to fill Place One must be a resident of Alcorn,



643 Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The chancellors to fill Place Two
644 and Place Three must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe, Pontotoc or
645 Union County. The chancellor to fill Place Four may be a resident
646 of any county in the district. Election of the four (4) offices
647 of chancellor shall be by election to be held in every county
648 within the First Chancery Court District.

649 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
650 brought forward as follows:

651 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the
652 following counties:

- 653 (a) Jasper County;
- 654 (b) Newton County; and
- 655 (c) Scott County.

656 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
657 brought forward as follows:

658 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
659 of the following counties:

- 660 (a) DeSoto County;
- 661 (b) Grenada County;
- 662 (c) Montgomery County;
- 663 (d) Panola County;
- 664 (e) Tate County; and
- 665 (f) Yalobusha County.

666 (2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into
667 two (2) subdistricts as follows:



668 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.

669 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
670 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
671 County.

672 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
673 brought forward as follows:

674 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

675 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
676 Third Chancery Court District.

677 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
678 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2
679 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
680 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

681 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
682 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
683 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
684 "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be
685 denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three."

686 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as
687 follows:]**

688 9-5-13. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
689 Third Chancery Court District.

690 (2) (a) The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be
691 elected from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of



692 Subdistrict 3-2 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery
693 County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

694 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the four
695 (4) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
696 as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The
697 chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
698 "Place One" and "Place Four" and the chancellorships in
699 Subdistrict 3-2 shall be denominated only as "Place Two" and
700 "Place Three."

701 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
702 brought forward as follows:

703 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
704 of Hinds County.

705 (2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
706 the following four (4) subdistricts:

707 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
708 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
709 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
710 and 97.

711 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
712 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
713 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
714 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

715 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
716 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,



717 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
718 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.

719 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
720 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
721 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
722 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
723 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
724 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

725 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
726 brought forward as follows:

727 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
728 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
729 elected from each subdistrict.

730 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
731 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
732 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
733 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
734 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
735 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
736 the court.

737 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
738 brought forward as follows:

739 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
740 following counties:

741 (a) Attala County;



- 742 (b) Carroll County;
743 (c) Choctaw County;
744 (d) Kemper County;
745 (e) Neshoba County; and
746 (f) Winston County.

747 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
748 brought forward as follows:

749 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
750 Sixth Chancery Court District.

751 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
752 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
753 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

754 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
755 brought forward as follows:

756 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed
757 of the following counties:

- 758 (a) Bolivar County;
759 (b) Coahoma County;
760 (c) Leflore County;
761 (d) Quitman County;
762 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
763 (f) Tunica County.

764 (2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
765 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:



766 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
767 Coahoma County;

768 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
769 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

770 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
771 brought forward as follows:

772 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
773 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
774 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
775 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
776 appointment and election only as "Place One," and two (2)
777 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
778 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
779 "Place Two" and "Place Three."

780 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
781 brought forward as follows:

782 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
783 the following counties:

- 784 (a) Hancock County;
- 785 (b) Harrison County; and
- 786 (c) Stone County.

787 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
788 brought forward as follows:

789 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
790 Eighth Chancery Court District.



791 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
792 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
793 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."

794 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
795 powers and duties of the chancellors other than as cast upon them
796 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
797 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
798 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of
799 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
800 court.

801 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
802 brought forward as follows:

803 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
804 of the following counties:

- 805 (a) Humphreys County;
- 806 (b) Issaquena County;
- 807 (c) Sharkey County;
- 808 (d) Sunflower County;
- 809 (e) Warren County; and
- 810 (f) Washington County.

811 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
812 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

813 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
814 precincts in the following counties:



815 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
816 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
817 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
818 and Sunflower Plantation; and

819 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
820 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
821 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
822 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
823 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

824 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
825 and the following precincts in the following counties:

826 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
827 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
828 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
829 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

830 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
831 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
832 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
833 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
834 Ward's Recreation Center.

835 (c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County,
836 Sharkey County and Warren County.

837 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
838 brought forward as follows:



839 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
840 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
841 each subdistrict.

842 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
843 brought forward as follows:

844 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
845 following counties:

- 846 (a) Forrest County;
- 847 (b) Lamar County;
- 848 (c) Marion County;
- 849 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 850 (e) Perry County.

851 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
852 brought forward as follows:

853 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
854 Tenth Chancery Court District.

855 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
856 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
857 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
858 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may be a resident
859 of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill Place Two
860 must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County.
861 The chancellor to fill Place Three must be a resident of Forrest
862 County. Election of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be



863 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
864 Court District.

865 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
866 brought forward as follows:

867 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is
868 composed of the following counties:

- 869 (a) Holmes County;
- 870 (b) Leake County;
- 871 (c) Madison County; and
- 872 (d) Yazoo County.

873 (2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
874 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

875 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
876 Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: Bible
877 Church, Canton 4, Canton 5, Flora, Madison County Baptist Family
878 Life Center, Magnolia Heights and Smith School;

879 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
880 the following precincts in Madison County: Bear Creek, Camden,
881 Cameron, Canton 1, Canton 2, Canton 3, Canton 7, Cedar Grove,
882 Cobblestone, Couparle, Gluckstadt, Highland Colony Baptist Church,
883 Liberty, Lorman/Cavalier, Luther Branson School, Madison 1,
884 Madison 2, Madison 3, Main Harbor, New Industrial Park, North Bay,
885 Ratliff Ferry, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4, Ridgeland
886 First Methodist Church, Ridgeland Tennis Center, Sharon,



887 Sunnybrook, Tougaloo, Trace Harbor, Victory Baptist Church,
888 Virililia, Whisper Lake and Yandell Road.

889 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
890 brought forward as follows:

891 9-5-38. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
892 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
893 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
894 elected from Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes of
895 appointment and election only as "Place One," one (1) chancellor
896 shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated for
897 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place Two," and one
898 (1) chancellor shall be elected at large from the entire Eleventh
899 Chancery Court District and denominated for purposes of
900 appointment and election only as "Place Three."

901 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
902 brought forward as follows:

903 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District is composed of
904 the following counties:

- 905 (a) Clarke County; and
906 (b) Lauderdale County.

907 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
908 brought forward as follows:

909 9-5-40. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
910 Chancery Court District.



911 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
912 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
913 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

914 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
915 brought forward as follows:

916 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is
917 composed of the following counties:

- 918 (a) Covington County;
- 919 (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- 920 (c) Lawrence County;
- 921 (d) Simpson County; and
- 922 (e) Smith County.

923 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
924 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
925 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
926 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

927 **SECTION 64.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
928 brought forward as follows:

929 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
930 composed of the following counties:

- 931 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 932 (b) Clay County;
- 933 (c) Lowndes County;
- 934 (d) Noxubee County;
- 935 (e) Oktibbeha County; and



936 (f) Webster County.

937 (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
938 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

939 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
940 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
941 Bell Schoolhouse*, Bradley, Center Grove, Central Starkville*,
942 Craig Springs, Double Springs, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street
943 Center*, Maben, North Adaton, North Longview, North Starkville 2*,
944 North Starkville 3, Northeast Starkville, Self Creek, South
945 Adaton, South Longview, South Starkville*, Sturgis and West
946 Starkville*.

947 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
948 precincts in the following counties:

949 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
950 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and

951 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
952 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
953 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
954 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
955 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
956 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
957 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
958 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
959 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.



960 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
961 and the following precincts in the following counties:

962 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
963 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

964 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
965 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,
966 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
967 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
968 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
969 B; and

970 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
971 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
972 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
973 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.

974 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
975 brought forward as follows:

976 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
977 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
978 elected from each subdistrict.

979 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
980 brought forward as follows:

981 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
982 the following counties:

983 (a) Copiah County; and

984 (b) Lincoln County.



985 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
986 brought forward as follows:

987 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
988 the following counties:

- 989 (a) George County;
- 990 (b) Greene County; and
- 991 (c) Jackson County.

992 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
993 brought forward as follows:

994 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
995 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

996 (2) The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
997 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
998 only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

999 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1000 brought forward as follows:

1001 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District is
1002 composed of the following counties:

- 1003 (a) Adams County;
- 1004 (b) Claiborne County;
- 1005 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 1006 (d) Wilkinson County.

1007 (2) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
1008 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:



1009 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
1010 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
1011 Airport Carpenter*, Convention Center*, Foster Mound, Maryland*,
1012 Northside School, Palestine, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*.

1013 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
1014 and the following precincts in Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont,
1015 By-Pass Fire Station, Carpenter*, Concord, Convention Center*,
1016 Courthouse, Duncan Park, Kingston, Liberty Park, Maryland*,
1017 Morgantown, Oakland and Washington*.

1018 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
1019 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1020 each subdistrict.

1021 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1022 brought forward as follows:

1023 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1024 of the following counties:

- 1025 (a) Benton County;
- 1026 (b) Calhoun County;
- 1027 (c) Lafayette County;
- 1028 (d) Marshall County; and
- 1029 (e) Tippah County.

1030 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1031 brought forward as follows:

1032 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1033 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.



1034 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1035 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1036 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1037 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1038 brought forward as follows:

1039 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1040 of the following counties:

1041 (a) Jones County; and

1042 (b) Wayne County.

1043 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1044 brought forward as follows:

1045 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
1046 Rankin County.

1047 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1048 brought forward as follows:

1049 9-5-58. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1050 Twentieth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1051 and election the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
1052 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1053 only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

1054 **SECTION 75.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1055 brought forward as follows:

1056 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1057 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1058 districts:



1059 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1060 legal assistants.
1061 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
1062 legal assistants.
1063 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1064 legal assistants.
1065 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
1066 legal assistants.
1067 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1068 legal assistants.
1069 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1070 legal assistants.
1071 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... twelve (12)
1072 legal assistants. Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2025,
1073 the Seventh Circuit Court District shall have fourteen (14) legal
1074 assistants.
1075 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1076 legal assistants.
1077 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1078 legal assistants.
1079 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1080 legal assistants.
1081 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1082 legal assistants.



1083 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1084 legal assistants.
1085 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
1086 legal assistants.
1087 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1088 legal assistants.
1089 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1090 legal assistants.
1091 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1092 legal assistants.
1093 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1094 legal assistants.
1095 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1096 legal assistants.
1097 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1098 legal assistants.
1099 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1100 legal assistants.
1101 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1102 legal assistants.
1103 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1104 legal assistants.
1105 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
1106 legal assistants.



1107 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1108 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1109 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1110 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1111 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1112 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1113 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1114 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1115 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1116 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1117 district pursuant to this subsection:

1118 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1119 legal assistants.

1120 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1121 legal assistants.

1122 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1123 legal assistants.

1124 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1125 legal assistants.

1126 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1127 legal assistants.

1128 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1129 legal assistants.

1130 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1131 legal assistants.



1132 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1133 legal assistants.
1134 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1135 legal assistants.
1136 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1137 legal assistants.
1138 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1139 legal assistants.
1140 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1141 legal assistants.
1142 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1143 legal assistants.
1144 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1145 legal assistants.
1146 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1147 legal assistants.
1148 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1149 legal assistants.
1150 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1151 legal assistants.
1152 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1153 legal assistants.
1154 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1155 legal assistants.



1156 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1157 legal assistants.

1158 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1159 legal assistants.

1160 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1161 legal assistants.

1162 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1163 legal assistants.

1164 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1165 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1166 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1167 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1168 this section.

1169 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1170 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1171 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1172 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1173 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1174 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1175 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1176 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1177 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1178 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1179 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1180 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of



1181 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1182 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1183 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1184 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1185 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
1186 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1187 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1188 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
1189 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1190 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1191 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1192 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1193 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1194 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1195 Office.

1196 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1197 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1198 for such legal assistants.

1199 **SECTION 76.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1200 brought forward as follows:

1201 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
1202 criminal investigator.

1203 (2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth,
1204 Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,
1205 Seventeenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Circuit Court Districts



1206 may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for
1207 a total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

1208 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
1209 Fourth, Nineteenth and Twenty-third Circuit Court Districts may
1210 appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a
1211 total of three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

1212 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
1213 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
1214 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
1215 investigators.

1216 (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1217 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1218 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1219 (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties
1220 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than
1221 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be
1222 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon
1223 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal
1224 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid
1225 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary
1226 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law
1227 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other
1228 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal
1229 assistant to a district attorney.



1230 (7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
1231 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
1232 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses
1233 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law
1234 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the
1235 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

1236 (8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1237 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of
1238 funding for such criminal investigators.

1239 **SECTION 77.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1240 and after July 1, 2024.

