

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 2771

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

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

29 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
30 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts
31 shall be those precincts as they existed on October 1, 1990. He
32 may hold court in any other district with the consent of the judge
33 thereof, when in their opinion the public interest may require.
34 The terms of all circuit judges hereafter elected shall begin on
35 the first day of January 1931 and their terms of office shall
36 continue for four (4) years. A circuit judge shall be a resident



37 of the district in which he or she serves but shall not be
38 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
39 divided into subdistricts.

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

42 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
43 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the
44 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
45 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
46 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
47 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be
48 held in circuit court districts consisting of a single county on
49 the same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open
50 for business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
51 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
52 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
53 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
54 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
55 A matter in court may extend past a term if the interest of
56 justice so requires.

57 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
58 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
59 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
60 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
61 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to



62 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of
63 court shall commence and the number of days for which the terms
64 shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court
65 district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of
66 each county within the district and mailed to the office of the
67 Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all
68 Mississippi Bar members. If an order is not timely entered, the
69 terms of court for each of the counties within any circuit court
70 district shall remain unchanged for the next calendar year. A
71 certified copy of any order entered under the provisions of this
72 subsection shall, immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered
73 to the clerk of the board of supervisors in each of the counties
74 within the circuit court district.

75 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
76 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
77 criteria:

- 78 (a) The population of the district;
79 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
80 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
81 (d) The geographic area of the district;
82 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
83 court personnel of the district; and
84 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.



85 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
86 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
87 the appropriate:

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

90 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
91 data; and

92 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

93 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
94 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
95 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
96 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
97 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
98 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of The
99 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
100 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
101 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county. A circuit
102 court judge shall have the right to assign criminal matters to
103 county court as provided in Section 9-9-21.

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

106 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District is composed of the
107 following counties:

108 (a) Alcorn County;

109 (b) Itawamba County;



- 110 (c) Lee County;
- 111 (d) Monroe County;
- 112 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 113 (f) Prentiss County; and
- 114 (g) Tishomingo County.

115 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
116 amended as follows:

117 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
118 Circuit Court District.

119 (2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
120 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
121 "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place
122 Four." The judge to fill Place One must reside in Alcorn,
123 Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and
124 Place Three must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe or Pontotoc
125 County. The judge to fill Place Four may be a resident of any
126 county in the district. Election of the four (4) offices of judge
127 shall be by election to be held in every county within the First
128 Circuit Court District.

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

131 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District is composed of the
132 following counties:

- 133 (a) Hancock County;
- 134 (b) Harrison County; and



135 (c) Stone County.

136 **SECTION 6.** Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
137 amended as follows:

138 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the Second
139 Circuit Court District.

140 (2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
141 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
142 "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place
143 Four."

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

146 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District is composed of the
147 following counties:

- 148 (a) Benton County;
- 149 (b) Calhoun County;
- 150 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 151 (d) Lafayette County;
- 152 (e) Marshall County;
- 153 (f) Tippah County; and
- 154 (g) Union County.

155 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
156 amended as follows:

157 9-7-14. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Third
158 Circuit Court District.



159 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
160 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
161 "Place One * * *", "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

164 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
165 composed of the following counties:

- 166 (a) Leflore County;
- 167 (b) Sunflower County; and
- 168 (c) Washington County.

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

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

173 (i) Leflore County: Minter City, North Greenwood,
174 Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi
175 Valley State University and Southeast Greenwood Precincts; and

176 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
177 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
178 Ruleville North Precincts.

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

181 (i) Sunflower County: Indianola 1, Sunflower,
182 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South and Indianola 3 Northeast
183 Precincts; and



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

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

190 (i) Leflore County: East Greenwood Sub-A, East
191 Greenwood Sub-B, Central Greenwood, North Itta Bena, South Itta
192 Bena, Southwest Greenwood, Rising Sun, Sidon, Morgan City,
193 Swiftown and South Greenwood Precincts;

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

196 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
197 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
198 Bourbon Store Precincts.

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

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



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

210 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
211 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
212 elected from each subdistrict.

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

215 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District is composed of the
216 following counties:

- 217 (a) Attala County;
- 218 (b) Carroll County;
- 219 (c) Choctaw County;
- 220 (d) Grenada County;
- 221 (e) Montgomery County;
- 222 (f) Webster County; and
- 223 (g) Winston County.

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

226 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
227 Circuit Court District.

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

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



233 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
234 the following counties:

- 235 (a) Adams County;
- 236 (b) Amite County;
- 237 (c) Franklin County; and
- 238 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

243 (i) Adams County: Airport, By-Pass Fire Station,
244 Carpenter, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Foster Mound,
245 Maryland*, Northside School, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*;
246 and

247 (ii) Amite County: Ariel, Berwick, Crosby, East
248 Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*, Homochitto, South Liberty*
249 and Street.

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

252 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
253 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
254 Park, Maryland*, Morgantown, Oakland, Palestine and Washington*;
255 and

256 (ii) Amite County: Amite River, East Fork, East
257 Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion, Oneil,



258 Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw, Walls
259 and Zion Hills.

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

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

265 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
266 Hinds County.

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

269 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
270 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
271 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
272 and 97.

273 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
274 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
275 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
276 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

277 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
278 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
279 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
280 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89, and Jackson State.

281 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
282 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram



283 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
284 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
285 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
286 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

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

289 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
290 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
291 from each subdistrict.

292 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
293 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
294 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
295 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
296 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
297 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
298 of the court.

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

301 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District is composed
302 of the following counties:

- 303 (a) Leake County;
- 304 (b) Neshoba County;
- 305 (c) Newton County; and
- 306 (d) Scott County.



307 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit
308 Court District.

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

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

314 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of
315 the following counties:

- 316 (a) Issaquena County;
- 317 (b) Sharkey County; and
- 318 (c) Warren County.

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

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

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



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

333 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
334 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
335 subdistrict.

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

338 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
339 following counties:

- 340 (a) Clarke County;
- 341 (b) Kemper County;
- 342 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 343 (d) Wayne County.

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

346 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
347 Circuit Court District.

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

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

353 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
354 of the following counties:

- 355 (a) Bolivar County;



- 356 (b) Coahoma County;
- 357 (c) Quitman County; and
- 358 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

363 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle,
364 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East
365 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, Gunnison, Longshot, North Cleveland,
366 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace, Scott, Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*,
367 Stringtown, West Central Cleveland, West Cleveland and West
368 Rosedale; and

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

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

373 (i) Bolivar County: Cleveland Eastgate,
374 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
375 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Renova, Shelby, South
376 Cleveland* and Winstonville;

377 (ii) Coahoma County: Cagle Crossing, Clarksdale
378 1-4*, Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4, Clarksdale 4-2, Clarksdale
379 4-3, Dublin and Roundaway; and



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

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

384 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 1-4*, Clarksdale
385 2-4*, Clarksdale 5-4*, Coahoma, Farrell*, Friar's Point,
386 Jonestown, Lula, Lyon and Sherard*; and

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

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

391 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
392 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
393 subdistrict.

394 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
395 amended as follows:

396 9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District is composed
397 of the following counties:

398 (a) Forrest County; and

399 (b) Perry County.

400 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth Circuit
401 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
402 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
403 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".



404 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
405 amended as follows:

406 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
407 composed of the following counties:

- 408 (a) Covington County;
- 409 (b) Jasper County;
- 410 (c) Simpson County; and
- 411 (d) Smith County.

412 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Thirteenth Circuit
413 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
414 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
415 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

416 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
417 amended as follows:

418 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
419 composed of the following counties:

- 420 (a) Lincoln County;
- 421 (b) Pike County; and
- 422 (c) Walthall County.

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

425 (b) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
426 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
427 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".



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

430 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
431 the following counties:

- 432 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 433 (b) Lamar County;
- 434 (c) Lawrence County;
- 435 (d) Marion County; and
- 436 (e) Pearl River County.

437 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
438 amended as follows:

439 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
440 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

441 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
442 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
443 "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", and "Place Three * * *".
444 The judge to fill Place One must be a resident of Jefferson Davis,
445 Lamar, Lawrence or Marion County. The judge to fill Place Two may
446 be a resident of any county in the district. The judge to fill
447 Place Three must be a resident of Pearl River County.

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

450 9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
451 the following counties:

- 452 (a) Clay County;



- 453 (b) Lowndes County;
454 (c) Noxubee County; and
455 (d) Oktibbeha County.

456 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
457 amended as follows:

458 9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
459 Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

460 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
461 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
462 "Place One * * *", "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *". The judge
463 to fill Place One must be a resident of Lowndes County. The judge
464 to fill Place Two must be a resident of Oktibbeha County. The
465 judge to fill Place Three must be a resident of either Clay or
466 Noxubee County. Election of the three (3) offices of judge shall
467 be by election to be held in every county within the Sixteenth
468 Circuit Court District.

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

471 **[Until January 1, 2023, this section shall read as follows:]**

472 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
473 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

474 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall be composed of DeSoto
475 County; and

476 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall be composed of Panola
477 County, Tallahatchie County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.



478 **[From and after January 1, 2023, this section shall read as**
479 **follows:]**

480 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be
481 composed of the following counties:

- 482 (a) Panola County;
- 483 (b) Tallahatchie County;
- 484 (c) Tate County; and
- 485 (d) Yalobusha County.

486 **SECTION 31.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
487 brought forward as follows:

488 9-7-46. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
489 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

490 (2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the two (2)
491 judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and be denominated as
492 "Place One" and "Place Two."

493 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
494 brought forward as follows:

495 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
496 County.

497 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
498 brought forward as follows:

499 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District is
500 composed of the following counties:

- 501 (a) George County;
- 502 (b) Greene County; and



503 (c) Jackson County.

504 (2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of
505 the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to
506 George and Greene Counties, the amount of their present local
507 contribution in their present respective circuit court districts,
508 and any excess shall be paid by Jackson County.

509 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
510 amended as follows:

511 9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
512 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. The three (3) judgeships shall
513 be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
514 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two"
515 and "Place Three."

516 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
517 District may divide the court of any county within the district
518 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
519 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
520 court.

521 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
522 brought forward as follows:

523 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District is composed of
524 the following counties:

- 525 (a) Madison County; and
526 (b) Rankin County.



527 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
528 amended as follows:

529 9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
530 Twentieth Circuit Court District.

531 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
532 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
533 "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *". The
534 judge to fill Place One must reside in Rankin County, the judge to
535 fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to
536 fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

537 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
538 brought forward as follows:

539 9-7-55. The Twenty-first Circuit Court District is composed
540 of the following counties:

- 541 (a) Holmes County;
- 542 (b) Humphreys County; and
- 543 (c) Yazoo County.

544 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
545 brought forward as follows:

546 9-7-57. The Twenty-second Circuit Court District is composed
547 of the following counties:

- 548 (a) Claiborne County;
- 549 (b) Copiah County; and
- 550 (c) Jefferson County.



551 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
552 brought forward as follows:

553 9-7-63. The Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall be
554 DeSoto County.

555 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
556 amended as follows:

557 9-7-64. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) circuit judges
558 for the Twenty-third Circuit Court District.

559 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the * * *
560 four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
561 as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place
562 Four".

563 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
564 brought forward as follows:

565 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
566 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
567 listing of individual precincts shall be those precincts as they
568 existed on October 1, 1990. He shall hold court in any other
569 district with the consent of the chancellor thereof when in their
570 opinion the public interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of
571 all chancellors elected at the regular election for the year 1930
572 shall begin on the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of
573 office shall continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a
574 resident of the district in which he serves but shall not be



575 required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is
576 divided into subdistricts.

577 **SECTION 42.** Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
578 brought forward as follows:

579 9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate
580 number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and
581 composed of the counties as set forth in the sections which
582 follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of
583 ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial
584 district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least
585 twice a year. Court shall be held in chancery court districts
586 consisting of a single county on the same dates state agencies and
587 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
588 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
589 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
590 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
591 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
592 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
593 a term if the interest of justice so requires.

594 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
595 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
596 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
597 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
598 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to
599 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which terms of court



600 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
601 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
602 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
603 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
604 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
605 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court
606 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
607 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.

608 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
609 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
610 following criteria:

- 611 (a) The population of the district;
- 612 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 613 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;
- 614 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 615 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
616 court personnel of the district; and
- 617 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

618 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
619 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
620 the appropriate:

- 621 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
622 applying the above criteria;
- 623 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
624 data; and



625 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

626 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
627 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
628 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
629 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
630 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
631 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
632 the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the
633 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
634 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
635 of more than one (1) county.

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

638 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District is composed of the
639 following counties:

- 640 (a) Alcorn County;
- 641 (b) Itawamba County;
- 642 (c) Lee County;
- 643 (d) Monroe County;
- 644 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 645 (f) Prentiss County;
- 646 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 647 (h) Union County.

648 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
649 amended as follows:



650 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
651 First Chancery Court District.

652 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
653 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
654 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
655 "Place Four." The chancellor to fill Place One must be a resident
656 of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The chancellors to fill
657 Place Two and Place Three must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe,
658 Pontotoc or Union County. The chancellor to fill Place Four may
659 be a resident of any county in the district. Election of the four
660 (4) offices of chancellor shall be by election to be held in every
661 county within the First Chancery Court District.

662 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
663 brought forward as follows:

664 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the
665 following counties:

- 666 (a) Jasper County;
- 667 (b) Newton County; and
- 668 (c) Scott County.

669 **SECTION 46.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
670 amended as follows:

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

672 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
673 of the following counties:

- 674 (a) DeSoto County;



- 675 (b) Grenada County;
- 676 (c) Montgomery County;
- 677 (d) Panola County;
- 678 (e) Tate County; and
- 679 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

- 682 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.
- 683 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
684 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
685 County.

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

688 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
689 of the following counties:

- 690 (a) Grenada County;
- 691 (b) Montgomery County;
- 692 (c) Panola County;
- 693 (d) Tate County; and
- 694 (e) Yalobusha County.

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

- 697 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of Grenada County,
698 Montgomery County and Yalobusha County.



699 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Panola County and
700 Tate County.

701 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
702 amended as follows:

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

704 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
705 Third Chancery Court District.

706 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
707 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2
708 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
709 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

710 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
711 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
712 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
713 "Place One * * *", and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2
714 shall be denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

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

717 9-5-13. (1) There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for
718 the Third Chancery Court District.

719 (2) (a) The * * * one (1) chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1
720 shall be elected from * * * Grenada County, Montgomery County or
721 Yalobusha County. The * * * one (1) chancellor of Subdistrict 3-2
722 shall be elected from * * * Panola County * * * or Tate
723 County * * *.



724 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the * * *
725 two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and
726 denominated as "Place One * * *" and "Place Two * * *" * * *.
727 The * * * chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated
728 only as "Place One" * * * and the * * * chancellorship in
729 Subdistrict 3-2 shall be denominated only as "Place Two" * * *.

730 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
731 brought forward as follows:

732 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
733 of the following counties:

- 734 (a) Amite County;
735 (b) Franklin County;
736 (c) Pike County; and
737 (d) Walthall County.

738 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth
739 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
740 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
741 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

742 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
743 brought forward as follows:

744 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
745 of Hinds County.

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



748 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
749 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
750 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
751 and 97.

752 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
753 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
754 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
755 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

756 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
757 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
758 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
759 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.

760 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
761 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
762 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
763 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
764 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
765 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

766 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
767 brought forward as follows:

768 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
769 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
770 elected from each subdistrict.

771 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
772 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon



773 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
774 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
775 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
776 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
777 the court.

778 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
779 brought forward as follows:

780 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
781 following counties:

- 782 (a) Attala County;
- 783 (b) Carroll County;
- 784 (c) Choctaw County;
- 785 (d) Kemper County;
- 786 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 787 (f) Winston County.

788 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
789 brought forward as follows:

790 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
791 Sixth Chancery Court District.

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

795 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
796 brought forward as follows:



797 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed
798 of the following counties:

- 799 (a) Bolivar County;
- 800 (b) Coahoma County;
- 801 (c) Leflore County;
- 802 (d) Quitman County;
- 803 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 804 (f) Tunica County.

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

- 807 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
808 Coahoma County;
- 809 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
810 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

811 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
812 amended as follows:

813 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
814 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
815 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
816 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
817 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", and two (2)
818 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
819 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
820 "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".



821 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
822 brought forward as follows:

823 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
824 the following counties:

- 825 (a) Hancock County;
- 826 (b) Harrison County; and
- 827 (c) Stone County.

828 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
829 amended as follows:

830 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
831 Eighth Chancery Court District.

832 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
833 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
834 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
835 "Place Four."

836 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
837 powers and duties of the chancellors other than as cast upon them
838 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
839 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
840 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of
841 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
842 court.

843 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
844 brought forward as follows:



845 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
846 of the following counties:

- 847 (a) Humphreys County;
- 848 (b) Issaquena County;
- 849 (c) Sharkey County;
- 850 (d) Sunflower County;
- 851 (e) Warren County; and
- 852 (f) Washington County.

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

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

857 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
858 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
859 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
860 and Sunflower Plantation; and

861 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
862 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
863 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
864 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
865 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

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

868 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
869 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3



870 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
871 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

872 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
873 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
874 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
875 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
876 Ward's Recreation Center.

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

879 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
880 brought forward as follows:

881 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
882 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
883 each subdistrict.

884 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
885 brought forward as follows:

886 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
887 following counties:

- 888 (a) Forrest County;
- 889 (b) Lamar County;
- 890 (c) Marion County;
- 891 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 892 (e) Perry County.

893 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
894 amended as follows:



895 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
896 Tenth Chancery Court District.

897 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
898 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
899 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
900 "Place Four." The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may
901 be a resident of any county in the district. The chancellor to
902 fill Place Two must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or
903 Perry County. The chancellor to fill Place Three must be a
904 resident of Forrest County. Election of the four (4) offices of
905 chancellor shall be by election to be held in every county within
906 the Tenth Chancery Court District.

907 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
908 brought forward as follows:

909 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is
910 composed of the following counties:

- 911 (a) Holmes County;
- 912 (b) Leake County;
- 913 (c) Madison County; and
- 914 (d) Yazoo County.

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

- 917 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
918 Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: Bible



919 Church, Canton 4, Canton 5, Flora, Madison County Baptist Family
920 Life Center, Magnolia Heights and Smith School;

921 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
922 the following precincts in Madison County: Bear Creek, Camden,
923 Cameron, Canton 1, Canton 2, Canton 3, Canton 7, Cedar Grove,
924 Cobblestone, Couparle, Gluckstadt, Highland Colony Baptist Church,
925 Liberty, Lorman/Cavalier, Luther Branson School, Madison 1,
926 Madison 2, Madison 3, Main Harbor, New Industrial Park, North Bay,
927 Ratliff Ferry, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4, Ridgeland
928 First Methodist Church, Ridgeland Tennis Center, Sharon,
929 Sunnybrook, Tougaloo, Trace Harbor, Victory Baptist Church,
930 Virililia, Whisper Lake and Yandell Road.

931 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
932 amended as follows:

933 9-5-38. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
934 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
935 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
936 elected from Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes of
937 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", one (1)
938 chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated
939 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place
940 Two * * *", and one (1) chancellor shall be elected at large from
941 the entire Eleventh Chancery Court District and denominated for
942 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place Three * * *".



943 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
944 brought forward as follows:

945 9-5-39. The Twelfth Chancery Court District is composed of
946 the following counties:

947 (a) Clarke County; and

948 (b) Lauderdale County.

949 **SECTION 64.** Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
950 brought forward as follows:

951 9-5-40. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth
952 Chancery Court District.

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

956 **SECTION 65.** Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
957 brought forward as follows:

958 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is
959 composed of the following counties:

960 (a) Covington County;

961 (b) Jefferson Davis County;

962 (c) Lawrence County;

963 (d) Simpson County; and

964 (e) Smith County.

965 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
966 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be



967 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
968 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

969 **SECTION 66.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
970 brought forward as follows:

971 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
972 composed of the following counties:

- 973 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 974 (b) Clay County;
- 975 (c) Lowndes County;
- 976 (d) Noxubee County;
- 977 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 978 (f) Webster County.

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

981 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
982 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
983 Bell Schoolhouse*, Bradley, Center Grove, Central Starkville*,
984 Craig Springs, Double Springs, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street
985 Center*, Maben, North Adaton, North Longview, North Starkville 2*,
986 North Starkville 3, Northeast Starkville, Self Creek, South
987 Adaton, South Longview, South Starkville*, Sturgis and West
988 Starkville*.

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



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

993 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
994 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
995 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
996 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
997 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
998 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
999 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
1000 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
1001 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.

1002 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
1003 and the following precincts in the following counties:

1004 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
1005 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

1006 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
1007 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,
1008 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
1009 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
1010 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
1011 B; and

1012 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
1013 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
1014 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
1015 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.



1016 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1017 brought forward as follows:

1018 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1019 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1020 elected from each subdistrict.

1021 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1022 brought forward as follows:

1023 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1024 the following counties:

- 1025 (a) Copeiah County; and
- 1026 (b) Lincoln County.

1027 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1028 brought forward as follows:

1029 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1030 the following counties:

- 1031 (a) George County;
- 1032 (b) Greene County; and
- 1033 (c) Jackson County.

1034 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1035 amended as follows:

1036 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1037 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

1038 (2) The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
1039 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1040 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two" and "Place Three."



1041 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1042 brought forward as follows:

1043 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District is
1044 composed of the following counties:

- 1045 (a) Adams County;
- 1046 (b) Claiborne County;
- 1047 (c) Jefferson County; and
- 1048 (d) Wilkinson County.

1049 (2) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
1050 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

1051 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
1052 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
1053 Airport Carpenter*, Convention Center*, Foster Mound, Maryland*,
1054 Northside School, Palestine, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*.

1055 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
1056 and the following precincts in Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont,
1057 By-Pass Fire Station, Carpenter*, Concord, Convention Center*,
1058 Courthouse, Duncan Park, Kingston, Liberty Park, Maryland*,
1059 Morgantown, Oakland and Washington*.

1060 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
1061 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1062 each subdistrict.

1063 **SECTION 72.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1064 brought forward as follows:



1065 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1066 of the following counties:

- 1067 (a) Benton County;
- 1068 (b) Calhoun County;
- 1069 (c) Lafayette County;
- 1070 (d) Marshall County; and
- 1071 (e) Tippah County.

1072 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1073 brought forward as follows:

1074 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1075 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

1076 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1077 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1078 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1079 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1080 brought forward as follows:

1081 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1082 of the following counties:

- 1083 (a) Jones County; and
- 1084 (b) Wayne County.

1085 **SECTION 75.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1086 brought forward as follows:

1087 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
1088 Rankin County.



1089 **SECTION 76.** The following shall be codified as Section
1090 9-5-60, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1091 9-5-60. The Twenty-first Chancery Court District shall be
1092 DeSoto County.

1093 **SECTION 77.** The following shall be codified as Section
1094 9-5-62, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1095 9-5-62. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1096 Twenty-first Chancery Court District.

1097 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the two (2)
1098 judgeships shall be separate and district and denominated as
1099 "Place One", "Place Two" and "Place Three".

1100 **SECTION 78.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1101 amended as follows:

1102 9-5-58. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1103 Twentieth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1104 and election the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
1105 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1106 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *".

1107 **SECTION 79.** Section 9-3-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1108 brought forward as follows:

1109 9-3-1. The state shall be divided into three (3) Supreme
1110 Court districts, as follows, to wit:

1111 The counties of Bolivar, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes,
1112 Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake,
1113 Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey,



1114 Sunflower, Warren, Washington and Yazoo shall constitute the First
1115 District.

1116 The counties of Adams, Amite, Clarke, Covington, Forrest,
1117 Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jasper,
1118 Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Lawrence, Lincoln, Marion, Pearl
1119 River, Perry, Pike, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Wayne, and
1120 Wilkinson shall constitute the Second District.

1121 The counties of Alcorn, Attala, Benton, Calhoun, Carroll,
1122 Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Coahoma, DeSoto, Grenada, Itawamba,
1123 Lafayette, Lee, Leflore, Lowndes, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery,
1124 Oktibbeha, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Tallahatchie,
1125 Tate, Tippah, Tishomingo, Tunica, Union, Webster, Winston and
1126 Yalobusha, shall constitute the Third District.

1127 **SECTION 80.** Section 23-15-993, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1128 brought forward as follows:

1129 23-15-993. For the purpose of all elections, each of the
1130 nine (9) judgeships of the Supreme Court shall be considered a
1131 separate office. The three (3) offices in each of the three (3)
1132 Supreme Court districts shall be designated Position Number 1,
1133 Position Number 2 and Position Number 3, and in qualifying for
1134 office as a candidate for any office of judge of the Supreme Court
1135 each candidate shall state the position number of the office to
1136 which he aspires and the regular election ballots shall so
1137 indicate. In Supreme Court District Number 1: Position Number 1
1138 shall be that office for which the term ends in January 1966;



1139 Position Number 2 shall be that office for which the term ends in
1140 January 1965; and Position Number 3 shall be that office for which
1141 the term ends in January 1969. In District Number 2: Position
1142 Number 1 shall be that office for which the term ends in January
1143 1972; Position Number 2 shall be that office for which the term
1144 ends in January 1969; and Position Number 3 shall be for that
1145 office for which the term ends in January 1973. In District
1146 Number 3: Position Number 1 shall be that office for which the
1147 term ends in January 1969; Position Number 2 shall be that office
1148 for which the term ends in January 1969; and Position Number 3
1149 shall be that office for which the term ends in January 1965.

1150 **SECTION 81.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1151 brought forward as follows:

1152 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1153 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1154 districts:

1155 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1156 legal assistants.

1157 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
1158 legal assistants.

1159 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1160 legal assistants.

1161 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
1162 legal assistants.



1163 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1164 legal assistants.
1165 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1166 legal assistants.
1167 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... twelve (12)
1168 legal assistants. Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2025,
1169 the Seventh Circuit Court District shall have fourteen (14) legal
1170 assistants.
1171 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1172 legal assistants.
1173 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1174 legal assistants.
1175 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1176 legal assistants.
1177 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1178 legal assistants.
1179 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1180 legal assistants.
1181 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
1182 legal assistants.
1183 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1184 legal assistants.
1185 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1186 legal assistants.



1187 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1188 legal assistants.

1189 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1190 legal assistants.

1191 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1192 legal assistants.

1193 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1194 legal assistants.

1195 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1196 legal assistants.

1197 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1198 legal assistants.

1199 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1200 legal assistants.

1201 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
1202 legal assistants.

1203 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1204 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1205 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1206 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1207 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1208 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1209 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1210 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1211 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses



1212 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1213 district pursuant to this subsection:

1214 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1215 legal assistants.

1216 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1217 legal assistants.

1218 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1219 legal assistants.

1220 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1221 legal assistants.

1222 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1223 legal assistants.

1224 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1225 legal assistants.

1226 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1227 legal assistants.

1228 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1229 legal assistants.

1230 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1231 legal assistants.

1232 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1233 legal assistants.

1234 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1235 legal assistants.



1236 (1) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1237 legal assistants.
1238 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1239 legal assistants.
1240 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1241 legal assistants.
1242 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1243 legal assistants.
1244 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1245 legal assistants.
1246 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1247 legal assistants.
1248 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1249 legal assistants.
1250 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1251 legal assistants.
1252 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1253 legal assistants.
1254 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1255 legal assistants.
1256 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1257 legal assistants.
1258 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1259 legal assistants.



1260 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1261 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1262 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1263 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1264 this section.

1265 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1266 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1267 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1268 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1269 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1270 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1271 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1272 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1273 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1274 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1275 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1276 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1277 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1278 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1279 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1280 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1281 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
1282 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1283 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1284 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of



1285 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1286 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1287 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1288 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1289 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1290 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1291 Office.

1292 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1293 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1294 for such legal assistants.

1295 **SECTION 82.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1296 brought forward as follows:

1297 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
1298 criminal investigator.

1299 (2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth,
1300 Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,
1301 Seventeenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Circuit Court Districts
1302 may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for
1303 a total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

1304 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
1305 Fourth, Nineteenth and Twenty-third Circuit Court Districts may
1306 appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a
1307 total of three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

1308 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
1309 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal



1310 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
1311 investigators.

1312 (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1313 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1314 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1315 (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties
1316 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than
1317 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be
1318 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon
1319 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal
1320 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid
1321 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary
1322 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law
1323 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other
1324 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal
1325 assistant to a district attorney.

1326 (7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
1327 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
1328 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses
1329 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law
1330 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the
1331 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

1332 (8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1333 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of
1334 funding for such criminal investigators.



1335 **SECTION 83.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1336 brought forward as follows:

1337 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal
1338 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,
1339 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state
1340 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1341 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to
1342 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a
1343 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be
1344 a state employee.

1345 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1346 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1347 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1348 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1349 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1350 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1351 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1352 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1353 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1354 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1355 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1356 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1357 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1358 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1359 fulfilling that duty.



1360 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1361 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1362 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1363 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1364 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1365 court judge.

1366 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1367 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1368 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1369 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of
1370 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1371 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1372 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1373 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1374 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1375 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1376 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1377 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1378 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1379 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1380 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1381 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1382 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1383 municipality.



1384 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1385 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1386 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1387 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
1388 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
1389 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
1390 operation of the victim assistance program.

1391 **SECTION 84.** Candidates for new chancellorships and circuit
1392 judgeships created by this act shall run for those offices in a
1393 special election to be conducted in conjunction with the
1394 state-wide judicial elections held in November 2026. Candidates
1395 shall file his or her intent to be a candidate and otherwise
1396 qualify as provided by Section 23-15-977, and shall run for office
1397 and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985
1398 (Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act). The judges elected shall
1399 begin to serve their four-year terms on January 1, 2027, and the
1400 terms of those offices shall thereafter be as provided for
1401 chancellors and circuit judges generally.

1402 **SECTION 85.** Sections 75 and 76 of this act shall take effect
1403 and be in force from and after January 1, 2027, and the remainder
1404 of this act shall take effect and be in force from and after July
1405 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2024.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**



1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-5, 9-7-9,
2 9-7-13, 9-7-15, 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25,
3 9-7-27, 9-7-29, 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32, 9-7-33, 9-7-34, 9-7-41,
4 9-7-43, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-53, 9-7-55, 9-7-57 AND
5 9-7-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR CIRCUIT COURT
6 JUDGES, DISTRICTS AND TERMS OF COURT FOR DISTRICTS ONE TO
7 TWENTY-THREE, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-7,
8 9-7-11, 9-7-14, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-42, 9-7-44, 9-7-51,
9 9-7-54 AND 9-7-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY LANGUAGE
10 IN PROVISIONS OF LAW FOR CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD
11 SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3, 9-5-5, 9-5-9, 9-5-15, 9-5-17, 9-5-19,
12 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-27, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-37,
13 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-51,
14 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55 AND 9-5-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
15 PROVIDE FOR CHANCERY COURT JUDGES, DISTRICTS AND TERMS OF COURT
16 FOR DISTRICTS ONE TO TWENTY; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-7, 9-5-11,
17 9-5-13, 9-5-25, 9-5-29, 9-5-36, 9-5-38, 9-5-50 AND 9-5-58,
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY LANGUAGE IN PROVISIONS OF LAW
19 FOR CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO CREATE NEW SECTIONS 9-5-60 AND
20 9-5-62, WHICH CREATE THE TWENTY-FIRST CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT; TO
21 BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-3-1 AND 23-15-993, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
22 1972, WHICH PROVIDE THE BOUNDARIES AND DESIGNATED POSITIONS FOR
23 THE SUPREME COURT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-31-5, MISSISSIPPI
24 CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
25 PURPOSES.

