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AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2822**

**BY: Senator(s) Wiggins**

1           **AMEND by inserting the following as a new section after line**  
2 **19 and renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:**

3           **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
4 9-21-21, Mississippi Code of 1972:

5           9-21-21. (1) The Administrative Office of Courts shall  
6 establish a Youth Court Chancellor Pilot Program which includes,  
7 but is not limited to, the following components:

8                   (a) The office of youth court chancellor shall be  
9 created in each of the designated chancery districts which shall  
10 be separate and distinguishable from the other office or offices  
11 of chancellor for the district.

12                   (b) The senior chancellor in each designated chancery  
13 district shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to  
14 set terms in districts consisting of more than one (1) county



15 except for causes and dockets in the youth court division. All  
16 causes and dockets in the youth court division of each designated  
17 chancery district shall be assigned to the youth court chancellor  
18 who shall have the right to set terms in the youth court division  
19 of the district.

20 (c) The youth court chancellorship in each designated  
21 chancery district shall be separate and distinct and denominated  
22 for purposes of appointment and election as a separate "Place."  
23 The chancellor to fill the Place for youth court chancellor may be  
24 a resident of any county in the district and shall be by election  
25 to be held in every county within the district.

26 (d) In the case of the youth court chancellor's  
27 temporary absence from the county or district, another chancellor  
28 within the designated chancery district may temporarily serve in  
29 the youth court division. In the case of another chancellor's  
30 temporary absence from the county or district, the youth court  
31 chancellor may temporarily serve in the other chancellor's place.

32 (e) The youth court division of each designated  
33 chancery district shall encompass all counties within the  
34 district.

35 (f) The youth court division of each designated  
36 chancery district shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all youth  
37 court matters as set forth in Section 43-21-151.



38 (g) Sections 43-21-107, 43-21-111, 43-21-115,  
39 43-21-119, and 43-21-123 shall not be applicable in a chancery  
40 district which is part of the pilot program.

41 (h) Each youth court chancellor shall receive an office  
42 operating allowance and may make application to the Administrative  
43 Office of Courts for additional personnel as set forth in Section  
44 9-1-36.

45 (i) Each designated chancery district shall have one  
46 (1) intake officer who shall carry out the duties of the youth  
47 court intake unit set forth in Title 43, Chapter 21, for the  
48 entire youth court division of the district. Each intake officer  
49 shall be hired by and be an employee of the Administrative Office  
50 of Courts. Each intake officer shall be housed within an office  
51 of a chancery clerk within the chancery district.

52 (j) Each party in the youth court proceeding shall be  
53 represented by an attorney in accordance with Section 43-21-201.

54 (2) The following chancery districts shall be designated for  
55 participation in the pilot program and shall have one (1) youth  
56 court chancellor:

- 57 (a) The Second Chancery District;
- 58 (b) The Fourth Chancery District;
- 59 (c) The Fifth Chancery District;
- 60 (d) The Sixth Chancery District;
- 61 (e) The Seventh Chancery District;
- 62 (f) The Thirteenth Chancery District;



63           (g) The Fifteenth Chancery District;  
64           (h) The Sixteenth Chancery District;  
65           (i) The Twentieth Chancery District; and  
66           (j) Any other chancery district within the state may  
67 request to be added to the pilot program upon full agreement by  
68 all counties within the district evidenced by a resolution spread  
69 upon the minutes of the board of supervisors by each county. The  
70 Administrative Office of Courts shall file a report with the  
71 Legislature requesting the inclusion of the chancery district  
72 within the pilot program.

73           (3) The Administrative Office of Courts is authorized to  
74 utilize the Mississippi Youth Court Information Delivery System  
75 (MYCIDS) or any other case management and electronic filing system  
76 for purposes of the pilot program regardless of any other rule or  
77 law to the contrary.

78           (4) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to  
79 be known as the Chancery Youth Court Division Fund. The fund  
80 shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and  
81 special fund, separate and apart from the General Fund of the  
82 state. Monies in the fund shall be disbursed by the  
83 Administrative Office of Courts for the purpose of providing  
84 funding for the development and implementation of a chancery-based  
85 youth court pilot program as provided in this section. Unexpended  
86 amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall  
87 not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned or



88 investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be deposited into  
89 such fund. Monies from the fund shall be distributed by the State  
90 Treasurer upon warrants issued by the Administrative Office of  
91 Courts. Monies in the fund shall consist of:

- 92 (a) Monies appropriated by the Legislature;
- 93 (b) The interest accruing to the fund;
- 94 (c) Monies received from the federal government;
- 95 (d) Donations; and/or
- 96 (e) Monies received from such other sources as may be  
97 provided by law.

98 (5) The Administrative Office of Courts is authorized and  
99 directed to pay the following expenses from the fund:

- 100 (a) Compensation and expenses of each youth court  
101 chancellor the same as every other chancellor within the state;
- 102 (b) Office operating allowance and compensation of  
103 support staff of each youth court chancellor the same as every  
104 other chancellor within the state;
- 105 (c) Compensation of each intake officer; and
- 106 (d) A capital improvement for each designated chancery  
107 district to be used solely for the purpose of establishing the  
108 youth court division of the district.

109 (6) The initial youth court chancellor for each of the  
110 designated chancery districts shall be appointed by the Governor  
111 of Mississippi to serve a two-year term.



112 (7) Candidates for the youth court chancellorships created  
113 by this act shall run for those offices in a the judicial election  
114 of November 2026. Candidates shall file the intent to be a  
115 candidate as provided by Section 23-15-977, and shall run for  
116 office and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through  
117 23-15-985, which is the Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The  
118 youth court chancellors shall be elected from each district. The  
119 term for the chancellors elected shall be as is provided for  
120 chancellors generally.

121 **FURTHER AMEND by striking the title and inserting the**  
122 **following in lieu thereof:**

123 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 9-21-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
124 1972, TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS TO ESTABLISH A  
125 YOUTH COURT CHANCELLOR PILOT PROGRAM IN CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT  
126 DISTRICTS; TO ENUMERATE THE COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAM; TO  
127 DESIGNATE CERTAIN CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS TO THE PILOT PROGRAM;  
128 TO PROVIDE THAT EACH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS SHALL HAVE ONE YOUTH  
129 COURT CHANCELLORS; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY  
130 TO BE KNOWN AS THE CHANCERY YOUTH COURT DIVISION FUND; TO  
131 AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COURTS TO MAKE CERTAIN  
132 EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE INITIAL YOUTH  
133 COURT CHANCELLOR FOR EACH OF THE DESIGNATED CHANCERY DISTRICTS  
134 SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR TERM; TO  
135 PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE YOUTH COURT CHANCELLORS CREATED BY  
136 THIS ACT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-21-1, 9-21-3, 9-21-5,  
137 9-21-7, 9-21-9, 9-21-11, 9-21-13, 9-21-14, 9-21-15, 9-21-17, AND  
138 9-21-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ARE PROVISIONS RELATED TO  
139 THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF COURTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE  
140 AMENDMENT;

141 **FURTHER AMEND the title to conform.**

