

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-7, 9-7-14, 9-7-15, 9-7-21,
2 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-29, 9-7-31, 9-7-33, 9-7-34, 9-7-35, 9-7-37,
3 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-51, 9-7-55, 9-7-57,
4 9-7-63 AND 9-7-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE NUMBER
5 OF JUDGES AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRST, THIRD, FOURTH,
6 SIXTH, SEVENTH, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH,
7 SIXTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH, NINETEENTH, TWENTY-FIRST, TWENTY-SECOND
8 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3,
9 9-7-5, 9-7-9, 9-7-11, 9-7-13, 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-27,
10 9-7-30, 9-7-32, 9-7-37, 9-7-44, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-53 AND 9-7-54,
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE NUMBER OF JUDGES
12 AND TERMS FOR CIRCUIT COURTS FOR THE SECOND, FIFTH, EIGHTH,
13 TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH AND TWENTIETH DISTRICTS, FOR
14 PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-15,
15 9-5-17, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-25, 9-5-27, 9-5-31, 9-5-35,
16 9-5-36, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-51 AND
17 9-5-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE NUMBER OF JUDGES
18 AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH,
19 SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, THIRTEENTH,
20 FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH AND NINETEENTH
21 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3,
22 9-5-5, 9-5-7, 9-5-19, 9-5-29, 9-5-33, 9-5-37, 9-5-38, 9-5-39,
23 9-5-40, 9-5-45, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-57 AND 9-5-58, MISSISSIPPI
24 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE NUMBER OF JUDGES, DISTRICTS
25 AND TERMS OF CHANCERY COURTS FOR THE FIRST, THIRD, EIGHTH, NINTH,
26 ELEVENTH, TWELFTH, FOURTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH, TWENTIETH, FOR PURPOSES
27 OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-13, 9-5-15,
28 9-5-17, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-25, 9-5-27, 9-5-31, 9-5-33,
29 9-5-35, 9-5-36, 9-5-38, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-47, 9-5-49, 9-5-50,
30 9-5-51 AND 9-5-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE NUMBER
31 OF JUDGES AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECOND, THIRD,
32 FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH, THIRTEENTH,
33 FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH, SIXTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH AND NINETEENTH
34 CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 25-31-5 AND



35 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR ASSISTANT
36 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS, FOR PURPOSES OF
37 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI
38 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS,
39 FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

56 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
57 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the
58 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
59 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
60 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
61 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be
62 held in circuit court districts consisting of a single county on



63 the same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open
64 for business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms
65 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
66 continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one
67 (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge in
68 accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.
69 A matter in court may extend past a term if the interest of
70 justice so requires.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

- (a) Alcorn County;
- (b) Itawamba County;
- (c) Lee County;
- (d) Monroe County;
- (e) Pontotoc County;
- (f) Prentiss County; and
- (g) Tishomingo County.

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

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

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

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



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

[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

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

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

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-7. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) judges for the First Circuit Court District.



(2) The * * * five (5) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three", * * * "Place Four * * *" and "Place Five". The judge to fill Place One must reside in Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place Three * * * may be a resident of any county. The judge to fill Place Four * * * shall be a resident of Itawamba, Monroe or Pontotoc County. Election of the four (4) offices of judge shall be by election to be held in every county within the First Circuit Court District. The judge to fill Place Five must reside and be elected from any of the following precincts in Lee County: Auburn, Baldwin, Beech Springs, Belden, Birmingham Ridge, Bissell, Cedar Hill, Eggville, Euclautubba, Fellowship, Friendship, Gilvo, Guntown, Hebron, Kedron, Mooreville, Nettleton, Petersburg, Plantersville, Pratts, Richmond, Saltillo, Tupelo 1, Tupelo 2, Tupelo 3, Tupelo 4 North, Tupelo 4 South, Tupelo 5, Unity and Veteran's Park.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Benton County;
- (b) Calhoun County;
- (c) Chickasaw County;
- (d) Lafayette County;
- (e) Marshall County;
- (f) Tippah County; and
- (g) Union County.

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

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

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



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

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-14. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) judges for the Third Circuit Court District.

(2) The * * * four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" * * *, "Place Three * * *" and "Place Four". The judges to fill Place One and Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three may be a resident of any county in the district, except for Lafayette County. The judge to fill Place Four shall be a resident of Lafayette County.

SECTION 9. Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

261 (iii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall,
262 Hollandale City Hall, Darlove Baptist Church and Mangelardi
263 Bourbon Store Precincts.

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

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

273 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
274 **follows:]**

275 9-7-15. * * * The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
276 composed of the following counties:

277 (a) Holmes County;

278 (b) Humphreys County;

279 (* * * c) Leflore County;

280 (* * * d) Sunflower County; and

281 (* * * e) Washington County.

282 * * *



283 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
284 amended as follows:

285 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

286 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
287 Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
288 elected from each subdistrict.

289 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
290 **follows:]**

291 9-7-17. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) circuit judges
292 for the Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge
293 shall be elected from each subdistrict.

294 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
295 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
296 "Place One", "Place Two" and "Place Three". The judge to fill
297 Place One shall be a resident of Washington County. The judge to
298 fill Place Two shall be a resident of Leflore, Holmes or Humphreys
299 County. The judge to fill Place Three may be a resident of any
300 county in the district.

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

303 9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District is composed of the
304 following counties:

- 305 (a) Attala County;
306 (b) Carroll County;
307 (c) Choctaw County;



- 308 (d) Grenada County;
309 (e) Montgomery County;
310 (f) Webster County; and
311 (g) Winston County.

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

314 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
315 Circuit Court District.

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

319 **SECTION 13.** Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
320 amended as follows:

321 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

322 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
323 the following counties:

- 324 (a) Adams County;
325 (b) Amite County;
326 (c) Franklin County; and
327 (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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



332 (i) Adams County: Airport, Bellemont*, By-Pass
333 Fire Station, Carpenter, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*,
334 Foster Mound, * * * Northside School, Pine Ridge * * * and
335 Washington*; and

336 (ii) Amite County: Amite River*, Ariel, Berwick*,
337 Crosby, East Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*,
338 Homochitto * * * and Vance Park*.

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

341 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
342 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
343 Park, Maryland * * *, Morgantown, Oakland, Palestine and
344 Washington*; and

345 (ii) Amite County: Amite River*, Berwick*, East
346 Fork, East Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion,
347 Oneil, Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw,
348 Vance Park*, Walls and Zion Hills.

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

352 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
353 **follows:]**

354 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
355 the following counties:

356 (a) Adams County;



357 (b) Amite County;
358 (c) Franklin County; and
359 (d) Wilkinson County.

360 (2) * * * There shall be * * * three (3) judges for the
361 Sixth Circuit Court District. The * * * three (3) judgeships
362 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected
363 from each subdistrict and denominated for purposes of appointment
364 and election only as "Place One", "Place Two" and "Place Three".
365 The judge to fill Place One shall be a resident of Adams County.
366 The judge to fill Place Two shall be a resident of any county,
367 except Adams County. The judge to fill Place Three may be a
368 resident of any county in the district.

369 **SECTION 14.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
370 amended as follows:

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

372 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
373 Hinds County.

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

376 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
377 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 32*, * * * 44, 45, 46, 47*, 72,
378 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.

379 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
380 precincts in Hinds County: 11*, 12*, 13*, * * * 16*, * * * 23,



381 27, 28, 29, 30, * * * 38, 39^{*}, 40, 41, 42^{*}, 43^{*}, 80, 81, 82, 83,
382 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

383 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
384 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
385 49^{*}, 50, 51^{*}, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58^{*}, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63^{*},
386 64^{*}, * * * 67, 68, 69, 70^{*}, 71, 86 * * * and 89 * * *.

387 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
388 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
389 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,
390 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,
391 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,
392 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

393 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of all precincts
394 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
395 District as described by Section 29-5-203.

396 **[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section**
397 **shall read as follows:]**

398 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
399 Claiborne County, Hinds County and Jefferson County.

400 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
401 into * * * six (6) subdistricts * * * as follows:

402 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
403 precincts in Hinds County: * * * 32^{*}, * * * 44, 45, 46, 47^{*}, 72,
404 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.



405 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
406 precincts in Hinds County: 11*, 12*, 13*, * * * 16*, * * * 23,
407 27, 28, 29, 30, * * * 38, 39*, 40, 41, 42*, 43*, 80, 81, 82, 83,
408 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

409 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
410 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
411 49, 50, 51*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63*,
412 64*, * * * 67, 68, 69, 70*, 71, 86 * * * and 89 * * *.

413 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
414 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
415 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,
416 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,
417 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,
418 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

419 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of Claiborne County
420 and Jefferson County.

421 (f) Subdistrict 7-6 shall consist of all precincts
422 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
423 District as described in Section 29-5-203.

424 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
425 **follows:]**

426 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
427 Claiborne County, Hinds County and Jefferson County.

428 * * *



SECTION 15. Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) circuit judges for the Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

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

[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * six (6) circuit judges for the Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be separate and distinct. For subdistricts 7-1 to 7-4, one (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict. The judge to fill subdistrict 7-5 shall be a resident of Claiborne County or Jefferson County. The judge to fill subdistrict 7-6 shall be a resident within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District as described by Section 29-5-203.

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



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

[From January 1, 2031, until January 1, 2035, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * six (6) circuit judges for the Seventh Circuit Court District. * * * The judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and elections only as "Place One", "Place Two", "Place Three", "Place Four", "Place Five" and "Place Six". The judges to fill Place One, Place Two, Place Three and Place Four may reside in any precinct within the district. The judge to fill Place Five must reside in Claiborne County or Jefferson County. The judge to fill Place Six must reside within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District.

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



478 [From and after January 1, 2035, this section shall read as
479 follows:]

480 9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) circuit judges
481 for the Seventh Circuit Court District. * * * The judgeships
482 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
483 appointment and elections only as "Place One", "Place Two", "Place
484 Three", "Place Four" and "Place Five". The judges to fill Place
485 One, Place Two, Place Three and Place Four may reside in any
486 precinct within the district. The judge to fill Place Five must
487 reside in Claiborne County or Jefferson County.

488 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
489 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
490 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
491 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
492 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
493 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
494 of the court.

495 **SECTION 16.** A special election shall be held to fill the
496 office of circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit Court District.
497 The special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in
498 November, 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section
499 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in
500 Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the
501 Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve
502 until January 1, 2027, unless the person is re elected to fill



such office in the November, 2026, election for judicial offices.
The terms of those offices shall thereafter be as provided by law
for circuit judges generally.

SECTION 17. Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Leake County;
- (b) Neshoba County;
- (c) Newton County; and
- (d) Scott County.

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

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

SECTION 18. Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

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

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



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

(a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County, Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove*, Cherry Grove, Cherry Street*, Kings*, * * * and St. Aloysius * * *.

(b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Bovina, Cedar Grove*, Cherry Street*, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Jett, Kings*, Lee Road, Moose Lodge, Number 7 Fire Station*, * * * Oakland, Plumbers Hall, Redwood, Tingleville, * * * YMCA and Yokena.

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-29. * * * The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Issaquena County;
- (b) Sharkey County; * * *
- (c) Warren County * * * ; and
- (d) Yazoo County.

* * *

SECTION 19. Section 9-7-30, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]



551 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
552 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
553 subdistrict.

554 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
555 **follows:]**

556 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
557 Court District. * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate
558 and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
559 subdistrict and denominated for purposes of appointment and
560 election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The judge to fill
561 Place One shall be a resident of Warren County. The judge to fill
562 Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district.

563 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
564 amended as follows:

565 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

566 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
567 following counties:

- 568 (a) Clarke County;
569 (b) Kemper County;
570 (c) Lauderdale County; and
571 (d) Wayne County.

572 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
573 **follows:]**

574 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
575 following counties:



- 576 (a) Clarke County;
577 (b) Kemper County; and
578 (c) Lauderdale County * * *.

579 * * *

580 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
581 brought forward as follows:

582 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
583 Circuit Court District.

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

587 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
588 amended as follows:

589 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

590 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
591 of the following counties:

- 592 (a) Bolivar County;
593 (b) Coahoma County;
594 (c) Quitman County; and
595 (d) Tunica County.

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

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



600 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle*,
601 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East
602 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, * * * Longshot, North Cleveland,
603 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace*, Round Lake Gunnison Deeson, Scott,
604 Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*, Stringtown, West Central Cleveland,
605 West Cleveland and West Rosedale; and

606 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo*, Clarksdale 2 * * **,
607 Clarksdale 5 * * **, Farrell* * * * and Rena Lara * * *.

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

610 (i) Bolivar County: Boyle*, Cleveland Eastgate,
611 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
612 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Pace*, Renova, Round
613 Lake Gunnison Deeson*, Shelby, * * * and Winstonville;

614 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo*, Cagle Crossing,
615 Clarksdale * * * 3, Clarksdale * * * 4, Clarksdale * * * 4 North,
616 Clarksdale * * * 5*, Clarksdale * * * Courthouse*, Dublin * * *
617 Roundaway and Sasse St. Fire Station; and

618 (iii) Quitman County: * * * Crowder*, District 3
619 South*, Lambert, Northwest Marks*, Southwest Marks* and West
620 Lambert.

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

623 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale * * * 2*,
624 Clarksdale * * * 5*, * * * Clarksdale Courthouse*, Coahoma,



625 Farrell*, Friar's Point, Jonestown, Lula * * * and Lyons * * *;
626 and

627 (ii) Quitman County: * * * Crenshaw, Crowder*,
628 Darling, District 3 North, District 3 South*, Northwest
629 Marks*, * * * Sledge and Southwest Marks*.

630 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
631 **follows:]**

632 9-7-33. * * * The Eleventh Circuit Court District is
633 composed of the following counties:

- 634 (a) Bolivar County;
635 (b) Coahoma County;
636 (c) Quitman County; and
637 (d) Tunica County.

638 * * *

639 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
640 amended as follows:

641 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

642 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
643 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
644 subdistrict.

645 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
646 **follows:]**

647 9-7-34. There shall be * * * two (2) judges for the Eleventh
648 Circuit Court District. * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be
649 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment



and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The judge to fill Place One shall be a resident of Bolivar County. The judge to fill Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district, except Bolivar County.

SECTION 24. Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

(a) Forrest County; and

(b) Perry County.

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

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

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

(a) Forrest County; * * *

(b) Greene County; and

(* * * c) Perry County.

(2) There shall be * * * three (3) judges for the Twelfth Circuit Court District. The * * * three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment



675 and election only as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *" and
676 "Place Three". The judges to fill Place One and Place Two may
677 reside in any county in the district. The judge to fill Place
678 Three must reside and be elected from the following precincts in
679 Forrest County: Camp School, Court Street, Dixie Pine-Central,
680 Eatonville, Eureka School, Glendale, Hardy Street, Hattiesburg
681 Cultural Center, Highland Park, Lillie Burney School, North
682 Heights, Pinecrest, Rawls Springs, Rowan School, Sigler Center,
683 Thames School, Train Depot, West Hills and Westside.

684 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
685 amended as follows:

686 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
687 composed of the following counties:

- 688 (a) Covington County;
689 (b) Jasper County;
690 (c) Simpson County; and
691 (d) Smith County.

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

696 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
697 amended as follows:

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



699 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
700 composed of the following counties:

- 701 (a) Lincoln County;
- 702 (b) Pike County; and
- 703 (c) Walthall County.

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

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

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

711 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
712 composed of the following counties:

- 713 (a) * * * Copiah County;
- 714 (b) * * * Jefferson Davis County; * * *
- 715 (c) * * * Lawrence County * * * ; and
- 716 (d) Lincoln County.

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

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

722 **SECTION 27.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
723 amended as follows:



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

725 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is
726 composed of the following counties:

- 727 (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- 728 (b) Lamar County;
- 729 (c) Lawrence County;
- 730 (d) Marion County; and
- 731 (e) Pearl River County.

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

734 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
735 the following counties:

- 736 (a) * * * Pike County;
- 737 (b) Lamar County;
- 738 (c) * * * Walthall County;
- 739 (d) Marion County; and
- 740 (e) Pearl River County.

741 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
742 amended as follows:

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

744 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
745 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

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



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

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

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

(2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", and "Place Three." The judge to fill Place One must be a resident of * * * Lamar * * * County. The judge to fill Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three must be a resident of Pearl River County.

SECTION 29. Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Clay County;
- (b) Lowndes County;
- (c) Noxubee County; and
- (d) Oktibbeha County.

SECTION 30. Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



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

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

SECTION 31. Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Panola County;
- (b) Tallahatchie County;
- (c) Tate County; and
- (d) Yalobusha County.

SECTION 32. Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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



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

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

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

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

SECTION 33. Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

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

9-7-47. (1) The Eighteenth Circuit Court District * * * is composed of the following counties:

(a) Jones County; and

(b) Wayne County.

(2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighteenth Circuit Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The judge to fill Place One



must reside in Jones County. The judge to fill Place Two must
reside in Wayne County.

SECTION 34. Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) George County; and

* * *

- (* * * b) Jackson County.

(2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of
the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to
George * * * County, the amount of * * * its present local



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

SECTION 35. Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

SECTION 36. Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
brought forward as follows:



873 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District is composed of
874 the following counties:

875 (a) Madison County; and

876 (b) Rankin County.

877 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
878 amended as follows:

879 9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
880 Twentieth Circuit Court District.

881 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
882 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
883 "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *". The
884 judge to fill Place One must reside in Rankin County, the judge to
885 fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to
886 fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

887 **SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
888 amended as follows:

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

890 9-7-55. The * * * Twenty-second Circuit Court District is
891 composed of the following counties:

892 (a) Holmes County;

893 (b) Humphreys County; and

894 (c) Yazoo County.

895 **[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section**
896 **shall read as follows:]**



897 9-7-55. The * * * Twenty-second Circuit Court District is
898 composed of the following counties:

- 899 (a) Holmes County;
900 (b) Humphreys County; and
901 (c) Yazoo County.

902 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
903 **follows:]**

904 Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides for
905 the Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall stand repealed on
906 and after January 1, 2031.

907 **SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
908 amended as follows:

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

910 9-7-57. The * * * Twenty-third Court District is composed of
911 the following counties:

- 912 (a) Claiborne County;
913 (b) Copeiah County; and
914 (c) Jefferson County.

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

917 * * *

918 Section 9-7-57, which creates the Twenty-second Circuit Court
919 District shall stand repealed on and after January 1, 2027.

920 **SECTION 40.** Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
921 amended as follows:



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

923 9-7-63. The * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall
924 be DeSoto County.

925 [From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as
926 follows:]

927 9-7-63. The * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall
928 be DeSoto County.

929 **SECTION 41.** Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
930 amended as follows:

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

932 9-7-64. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) circuit judges
933 for the * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District.

934 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the * * *
935 three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and
936 denominated as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *" and "Place
937 Three". The judges to fill Place One and Place Two may reside in
938 any precinct in the county. The judge to fill Place Three must
939 reside and be elected from the following precincts in DeSoto
940 County: Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East, Horn Lake High
941 School*, Horn Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake North, Horn Lake
942 West, Northwest Community College*, Southhaven South and
943 Southhaven West*.

944 [From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as
945 follows:]



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

(2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the * * * four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place Four". The judges to fill Place One, Place Two and Place Four may reside in any precinct in the county. The judge to fill Place Three must reside in and be elected from the following precincts in DeSoto County: Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East, Horn Lake High School*, Horn Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake North, Horn Lake West, Northwest Community College*, Southhaven South and Southhaven West*.

SECTION 42. Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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



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

SECTION 43. Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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



995 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
996 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
997 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
998 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
999 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
1000 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court
1001 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
1002 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.

1003 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
1004 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
1005 following criteria:

- 1006 (a) The population of the district;
- 1007 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 1008 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;
- 1009 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 1010 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
1011 court personnel of the district; and
- 1012 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

1013 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
1014 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
1015 the appropriate:

- 1016 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
1017 applying the above criteria;
- 1018 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
1019 data; and



1020 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.
1021 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
1022 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
1023 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
1024 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
1025 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
1026 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
1027 the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the
1028 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
1029 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
1030 of more than one (1) county.

1031 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1032 brought forward as follows:

1033 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District is composed of the
1034 following counties:

- 1035 (a) Alcorn County;
- 1036 (b) Itawamba County;
- 1037 (c) Lee County;
- 1038 (d) Monroe County;
- 1039 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 1040 (f) Prentiss County;
- 1041 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 1042 (h) Union County.

1043 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1044 amended as follows:



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9-5-9. (1) The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Covington County;



1070 (* * *b) Jasper County;
1071 (c) Jefferson Davis County;
1072 (* * *d) Newton County; * * *
1073 (e) Simpson County;
1074 (* * *f) Scott County * * *; and
1075 (g) Smith County.
1076 (2) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Second
1077 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
1078 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1079 and election only as "Place One", "Place Two" and "Place Three".
1080 Place One chancellor may reside in Scott County, Newton County or
1081 Jasper County. Place Two chancellor may reside in Simpson, Smith,
1082 Covington or Jefferson Davis County. Place Three chancellor may
1083 reside in any county in the district.

1084 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1085 amended as follows:

1086 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1087 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
1088 of the following counties:

1089 (a) DeSoto County;
1090 (b) Grenada County;
1091 (c) Montgomery County;
1092 (d) Panola County;
1093 (e) Tate County; and
1094 (f) Yalobusha County.



1095 (2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1096 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

1097 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.

1098 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
1099 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
1100 County.

1101 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1102 **follows:]**

1103 9-5-11. * * * The Third Chancery Court District is composed
1104 of the following counties:

1105 (a) * * * Carroll County;

1106 (b) Grenada County;

1107 (c) Montgomery County;

1108 (d) Panola County;

1109 (e) Tate County; and

1110 (f) Yalobusha County.

1111 * * *

1112 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1113 amended as follows:

1114 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1115 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1116 Third Chancery Court District.

1117 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
1118 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2



1119 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
1120 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

1121 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
1122 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
1123 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
1124 "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be
1125 denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

1126 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1127 **follows:]**

1128 9-5-13. (1) There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for
1129 the Third Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1130 and election, the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1131 distinct and denominated as "Place One" and "Place Two".

1132 (2) * * * The * * * chancellor of * * * Place One
1133 shall * * * reside in Tate County, Panola County or Yalobusha
1134 County. The * * * chancellor of * * * Place Two shall * * *
1135 reside in Carroll County, Grenada County or Montgomery
1136 County * * *.

1137 * * *

1138 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1139 amended as follows:

1140 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1141 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
1142 of the following counties:

1143 (a) Amite County;



1144 (b) Franklin County;
1145 (c) Pike County; and
1146 (d) Walthall County.

1147 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth
1148 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1149 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1150 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

1151 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1152 **follows:]**

1153 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
1154 of the following counties:

1155 (a) Adams County;
1156 (* * * b) Amite County;
1157 (* * * c) Franklin County;
1158 (d) Jefferson County;
1159 (* * * e) Pike County; and
1160 (* * * f) * * * Wilkinson County.

1161 (2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
1162 Fourth Chancery Court District. The * * * three (3)
1163 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1164 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" * * *
1165 "Place Two * * *" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One
1166 must reside in Adams County or Jefferson County. The chancellor
1167 for Place Two must reside in Amite County or Wilkinson County.



1168 The chancellor for Place Three must reside in Franklin County or
1169 Pike County.

1170 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1171 amended as follows:

1172 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1173 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
1174 of Hinds County.

1175 (2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1176 the following four (4) subdistricts:

1177 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
1178 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
1179 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
1180 and 97.

1181 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
1182 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
1183 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
1184 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

1185 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
1186 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
1187 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
1188 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.

1189 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
1190 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
1191 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
1192 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old



1193 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
1194 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

1195 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1196 **follows:]**

1197 9-5-17. * * * The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
1198 of Hinds County.

1199 * * *

1200 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1201 amended as follows:

1202 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1203 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1204 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1205 elected from each subdistrict.

1206 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1207 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
1208 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1209 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
1210 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
1211 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
1212 the court.

1213 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1214 **follows:]**

1215 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1216 Fifth Chancery Court District. * * * The four (4) chancellorships
1217 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of



1218 appointment and election only as "Place One", "Place Two", "Place
1219 Three" and "Place Four".

1220 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1221 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
1222 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1223 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
1224 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
1225 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
1226 the court.

1227 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1228 amended as follows:

1229 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1230 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1231 following counties:

- 1232 (a) Attala County;
1233 (b) Carroll County;
1234 (c) Choctaw County;
1235 (d) Kemper County;
1236 (e) Neshoba County; and
1237 (f) Winston County.

1238 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1239 **follows:]**

1240 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1241 following counties:

- 1242 (a) Attala County;



1243 * * *

1244 (* * *b) Choctaw County;

1245 (* * *c) Kemper County;

1246 (* * *d) Neshoba County; * * *

1247 (e) Webster County; and

1248 (f) Winston County.

1249 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1250 amended as follows:

1251 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1252 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1253 Sixth Chancery Court District.

1254 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1255 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1256 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1257 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1258 **follows:]**

1259 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1260 Sixth Chancery Court District.

1261 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1262 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1263 only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The chancellor for "Place
1264 One" must reside in Attala County, Choctaw County or Webster
1265 County. The chancellor for "Place Two" must reside in Winston
1266 County, Neshoba County or Kemper County.



1267 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1268 amended as follows:

1269 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1270 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed
1271 of the following counties:

- 1272 (a) Bolivar County;
- 1273 (b) Coahoma County;
- 1274 (c) Leflore County;
- 1275 (d) Quitman County;
- 1276 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 1277 (f) Tunica County.

1278 (2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
1279 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 1280 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
- 1281 Coahoma County;
- 1282 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
- 1283 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

1284 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1285 **follows:]**

1286 9-5-23. * * * The Seventh Chancery Court District is
1287 composed of the following counties:

- 1288 (a) Bolivar County;
- 1289 (b) Coahoma County;
- 1290 (c) Leflore County;
- 1291 (d) Quitman County;



1292 (e) Tallahatchie County; and

1293 (f) Tunica County.

1294 * * *

1295 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1296 amended as follows:

1297 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1298 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
1299 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
1300 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1301 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
1302 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", and two (2)
1303 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
1304 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
1305 "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

1306 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1307 **follows:]**

1308 9-5-25. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the
1309 Seventh Chancery Court District. The * * * two (2)
1310 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct * * *, and shall be
1311 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
1312 "Place One", and * * * "Place Two" * * *. The chancellor for
1313 Place One must reside in Bolivar County or Coahoma County. The
1314 chancellor for Place Two must reside in Leflore County, Quitman
1315 County, Tallahatchie County or Tunica County.



1316 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1317 amended as follows:

1318 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1319 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
1320 the following counties:

- 1321 (a) Hancock County;
- 1322 (b) Harrison County; and
- 1323 (c) Stone County.

1324 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1325 **follows:]**

1326 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
1327 the following counties:

- 1328 (a) Hancock County; and
- 1329 (b) Harrison County * * *.

1330 * * *

1331 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1332 amended as follows:

1333 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1334 Eighth Chancery Court District.

1335 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
1336 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1337 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
1338 "Place Four."

1339 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1340 powers and duties of the chancellors other than as cast upon them



1341 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1342 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
1343 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of
1344 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
1345 court.

1346 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1347 amended as follows:

1348 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1349 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
1350 of the following counties:

- 1351 (a) Humphreys County;
- 1352 (b) Issaquena County;
- 1353 (c) Sharkey County;
- 1354 (d) Sunflower County;
- 1355 (e) Warren County; and
- 1356 (f) Washington County.

1357 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1358 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

1359 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
1360 precincts in the following counties:

- 1361 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
1362 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
1363 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
1364 and Sunflower Plantation; and



1365 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
1366 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
1367 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
1368 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
1369 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

1370 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
1371 and the following precincts in the following counties:

1372 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
1373 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
1374 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
1375 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

1376 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
1377 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
1378 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
1379 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
1380 Ward's Recreation Center.

1381 (c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County,
1382 Sharkey County and Warren County.

1383 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1384 **follows:]**

1385 9-5-31. * * * The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
1386 of the following counties:

1387 (a) Humphreys County;

1388 (b) Issaquena County;

1389 (c) Sharkey County;



1390 (d) Sunflower County;
1391 (e) Warren County; and
1392 (f) Washington County.

1393 * * *

1394 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1395 amended as follows:

1396 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1397 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
1398 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1399 each subdistrict.

1400 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1401 **follows:]**

1402 9-5-33. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the
1403 Ninth Chancery Court District. * * * The two (2) chancellorships
1404 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
1405 appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The
1406 chancellor for Place One must reside in Humphreys County,
1407 Sunflower County or Washington County. The chancellor for Place
1408 Two must reside in Issaquena County, Sharkey County or Warren
1409 County.

1410 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1411 amended as follows:

1412 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1413 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1414 following counties:



- 1415 (a) Forrest County;
1416 (b) Lamar County;
1417 (c) Marion County;
1418 (d) Pearl River County; and
1419 (e) Perry County.

1420 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1421 **follows:]**

1422 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1423 following counties:

1424 * * *

- 1425 (* * *a) Lamar County;
1426 (* * *b) Marion County; and
1427 (* * *c) Pearl River County * * *.

1428 * * *

1429 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1430 amended as follows:

1431 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1432 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1433 Tenth Chancery Court District.

1434 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
1435 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1436 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
1437 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may be a resident
1438 of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill Place Two
1439 must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County.



1440 The chancellor to fill Place Three must be a resident of Forrest
1441 County. Election of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be
1442 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
1443 Court District.

1444 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1445 **follows:]**

1446 9-5-36. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for
1447 the Tenth Chancery Court District.

1448 (2) The * * * three (3) chancellorships shall be separate
1449 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
1450 election only as "Place One," "Place Two * * *" and "Place
1451 Three" * * *. The chancellor to fill Place One * * * may be a
1452 resident of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill
1453 Place Two must be a resident of Lamar * * * County. The
1454 chancellor to fill Place Three * * * may be a resident of any
1455 county in the district. * * *

1456 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1457 brought forward as follows:

1458 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is
1459 composed of the following counties:

- 1460 (a) Holmes County;
1461 (b) Leake County;
1462 (c) Madison County; and
1463 (d) Yazoo County.



1464 (2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
1465 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

1466 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
1467 Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: Bible
1468 Church, Canton 4, Canton 5, Flora, Madison County Baptist Family
1469 Life Center, Magnolia Heights and Smith School;

1470 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
1471 the following precincts in Madison County: Bear Creek, Camden,
1472 Cameron, Canton 1, Canton 2, Canton 3, Canton 7, Cedar Grove,
1473 Cobblestone, Couparle, Gluckstadt, Highland Colony Baptist Church,
1474 Liberty, Lorman/Cavalier, Luther Branson School, Madison 1,
1475 Madison 2, Madison 3, Main Harbor, New Industrial Park, North Bay,
1476 Ratliff Ferry, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4, Ridgeland
1477 First Methodist Church, Ridgeland Tennis Center, Sharon,
1478 Sunnybrook, Tougaloo, Trace Harbor, Victory Baptist Church,
1479 Virililia, Whisper Lake and Yandell Road.

1480 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1481 amended as follows:

1482 9-5-38. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1483 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
1484 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
1485 elected from Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes of
1486 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", one (1)
1487 chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated
1488 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place



Two * * *", and one (1) chancellor shall be elected at large from the entire Eleventh Chancery Court District and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place Three * * *".

SECTION 64. Section 9-5-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

(a) Clarke County; and

(b) Lauderdale County.

SECTION 65. Section 9-5-40, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

SECTION 66. Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

(a) Covington County;

(b) Jefferson Davis County;

(c) Lawrence County;

(d) Simpson County; and



1514 (e) Smith County.

1515 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
1516 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1517 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1518 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1519 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1520 **follows:]**

1521 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is
1522 composed of the following counties:

- 1523 (a) * * * Forrest County;
- 1524 (b) * * * Greene County;
- 1525 (c) * * * Perry County; and
- 1526 (d) * * * Stone County.

1527 * * *

1528 (2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
1529 Thirteenth Chancery Court District. The * * * three (3)
1530 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1531 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1532 "Place Two * * *" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One
1533 must reside in Forrest County. The chancellor for Place Two may
1534 reside in any county in the district, except Forrest County. The
1535 chancellor for Place Three shall reside and be elected from the
1536 following precincts in Forrest County: Camp School, Court Street,
1537 Dixie Pine-Central, Eatonville, Eureka School, Glendale, Hardy
1538 Street, Hattiesburg Cultural Center, Highland Park, Lillie Burney



1539 School, North Heights, Pinecrest, Rawls Springs, Rowan School,
1540 Sigler Center, Thames School, Train Depot, West Hills and
1541 Westside.

1542 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1543 amended as follows:

1544 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1545 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
1546 composed of the following counties:

- 1547 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 1548 (b) Clay County;
- 1549 (c) Lowndes County;
- 1550 (d) Noxubee County;
- 1551 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 1552 (f) Webster County.

1553 (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
1554 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

- 1555 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
1556 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
1557 Bell Schoolhouse*, Bradley, Center Grove, Central Starkville*,
1558 Craig Springs, Double Springs, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street
1559 Center*, Maben, North Adaton, North Longview, North Starkville 2*,
1560 North Starkville 3, Northeast Starkville, Self Creek, South
1561 Adaton, South Longview, South Starkville*, Sturgis and West
1562 Starkville*.



1563 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
1564 precincts in the following counties:

1565 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
1566 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and

1567 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
1568 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
1569 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
1570 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
1571 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
1572 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
1573 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
1574 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
1575 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.

1576 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
1577 and the following precincts in the following counties:

1578 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
1579 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

1580 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
1581 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,
1582 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
1583 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
1584 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
1585 B; and

1586 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
1587 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,



1588 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
1589 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.

1590 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1591 **follows:]**

1592 9-5-43. * * * The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
1593 composed of the following counties:

- 1594 (a) Chickasaw County;
1595 (b) Clay County;
1596 (c) Lowndes County;
1597 (d) Noxubee County; and
1598 (e) Oktibbeha County * * *.

1599 * * *

1600 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1601 amended as follows:

1602 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1603 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1604 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1605 elected from each subdistrict.

1606 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1607 **follows:]**

1608 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1609 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. * * * The three (3)
1610 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1611 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One", "Place
1612 Two" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One must reside



1613 in Chickasaw County, Clay County or Oktibbeha County. The
1614 chancellor for Place Two must reside in Lowndes County or Noxubee
1615 County. The chancellor for Place Three must reside and be elected
1616 from Noxubee County, and any of the following precincts in Lowndes
1617 County: 15th Street Church, Artesia, Coleman, Crawford, Hunt*,
1618 Plum Grove, Southside Church, Townsend Park, Trinity, West
1619 Lowndes; and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County: Hickory
1620 Grove/Southeast Oktibbeha*, Oktoc and Sessums.

1621 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1622 amended as follows:

1623 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1624 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1625 the following counties:

- 1626 (a) Copiah County; and
1627 (b) Lincoln County.

1628 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1629 **follows:]**

1630 9-5-47. (1) The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is
1631 composed of the following counties:

- 1632 (a) Claiborne County
1633 (* * *b) Copiah County; * * *
1634 (c) Lawrence County;
1635 (* * *d) Lincoln County * * *; and
1636 (e) Walthall County.



(2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fifteenth Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The chancellor for Place One must reside in Copiah County, Claiborne County or Lawrence County. The chancellor for Place Two must reside in Lincoln County or Walthall County.

SECTION 70. Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) George County; and

* * *

- (* * *b) Jackson County.

SECTION 71. Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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



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

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

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

9-5-50. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) chancellors for the Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

(2) The * * * four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" * * * , "Place Three * * *" and "Place Four". The chancellors for Place One, Place Two and Place Three may reside in any county in the district. The chancellor for Place Four must reside in George County.

SECTION 72. Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

- (a) Adams County;
- (b) Claiborne County;
- (c) Jefferson County; and
- (d) Wilkinson County.



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

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

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

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

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

9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District is composed of * * * DeSoto County.

* * *

(* * * 2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the Seventeenth Chancery Court District. * * * The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three". The chancellors for Place One and Place Two may reside in any precinct in the district. The chancellor



1711 for Place Three must reside in and be elected from the following
1712 precincts in DeSoto County: Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East,
1713 Horn Lake High School*, Horn Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake
1714 North, Horn Lake West, Northwest Community College*, Southhaven
1715 South and Southhaven West*.

1716 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1717 brought forward as follows:

1718 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1719 of the following counties:

- 1720 (a) Benton County;
- 1721 (b) Calhoun County;
- 1722 (c) Lafayette County;
- 1723 (d) Marshall County; and
- 1724 (e) Tippah County.

1725 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1726 brought forward as follows:

1727 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1728 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

1729 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1730 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1731 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1732 **SECTION 75.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1733 amended as follows:

1734 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**



1735 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1736 of the following counties:

1737 (a) Jones County; and

1738 (b) Wayne County.

1739 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1740 **follows:]**

1741 9-5-55. (1) The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is
1742 composed of the following counties:

1743 (a) Jones County; and

1744 (b) Wayne County.

1745 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Nineteenth
1746 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1747 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1748 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The chancellor
1749 for Place One must reside in Jones County. The chancellor for
1750 Place Two must reside in Wayne County.

1751 **SECTION 76.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1752 brought forward as follows:

1753 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
1754 Rankin County.

1755 **SECTION 77.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1756 amended as follows:

1757 9-5-58. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1758 Twentieth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1759 and election the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and



1760 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1761 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *".

1762 **SECTION 78.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1763 brought forward as follows:

1764 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1765 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1766 districts:

1767 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1768 legal assistants.

1769 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
1770 legal assistants.

1771 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1772 legal assistants.

1773 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
1774 legal assistants.

1775 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1776 legal assistants.

1777 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1778 legal assistants.

1779 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... twelve (12)
1780 legal assistants. Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2025,
1781 the Seventh Circuit Court District shall have fourteen (14) legal
1782 assistants.

1783 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1784 legal assistants.



1785 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1786 legal assistants.
1787 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1788 legal assistants.
1789 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1790 legal assistants.
1791 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1792 legal assistants.
1793 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
1794 legal assistants.
1795 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1796 legal assistants.
1797 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1798 legal assistants.
1799 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1800 legal assistants.
1801 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1802 legal assistants.
1803 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1804 legal assistants.
1805 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1806 legal assistants.
1807 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1808 legal assistants.



1809 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1810 legal assistants.

1811 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1812 legal assistants.

1813 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
1814 legal assistants.

1815 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1816 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1817 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1818 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1819 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1820 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1821 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1822 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1823 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1824 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1825 district pursuant to this subsection:

1826 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1827 legal assistants.

1828 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1829 legal assistants.

1830 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1831 legal assistants.

1832 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1833 legal assistants.



1834 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1835 legal assistants.
1836 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1837 legal assistants.
1838 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1839 legal assistants.
1840 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1841 legal assistants.
1842 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1843 legal assistants.
1844 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1845 legal assistants.
1846 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1847 legal assistants.
1848 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1849 legal assistants.
1850 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1851 legal assistants.
1852 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1853 legal assistants.
1854 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1855 legal assistants.
1856 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1857 legal assistants.



1858 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1859 legal assistants.

1860 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1861 legal assistants.

1862 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1863 legal assistants.

1864 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1865 legal assistants.

1866 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1867 legal assistants.

1868 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1869 legal assistants.

1870 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1871 legal assistants.

1872 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1873 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1874 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1875 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1876 this section.

1877 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1878 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1879 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1880 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1881 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1882 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any



1883 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1884 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1885 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1886 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1887 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1888 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1889 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1890 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1891 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1892 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1893 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
1894 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1895 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1896 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
1897 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1898 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1899 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1900 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1901 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1902 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1903 Office.

1904 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1905 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1906 for such legal assistants.



SECTION 79. Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

(6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal



investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal assistant to a district attorney.

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

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

SECTION 80. Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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



1957 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1958 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1959 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1960 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1961 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1962 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1963 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1964 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1965 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1966 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1967 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1968 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1969 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1970 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1971 fulfilling that duty.

1972 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1973 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1974 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1975 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1976 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1977 court judge.

1978 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1979 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1980 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1981 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of



1982 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1983 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1984 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1985 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1986 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1987 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1988 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1989 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1990 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1991 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1992 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1993 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1994 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1995 municipality.

1996 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1997 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1998 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1999 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
2000 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
2001 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
2002 operation of the victim assistance program.

2003 **SECTION 81.** (1) A special election shall be held to fill the
2004 office of circuit judge for the Twenty-first Circuit Court District.
2005 The special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in November,
2006 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and



2007 shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections
2008 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan
2009 Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve until January
2010 1, 2027, unless the person is re-elected to fill such office in the
2011 November, 2026, election for judicial offices. The terms of those
2012 offices shall thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges
2013 generally.

2014 (2) Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit
2015 judgeships that begin January 1, 2027, shall run for those offices
2016 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in
2017 November 2026. Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit
2018 judgeships that begin January 1, 2031, shall run for those offices
2019 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in
2020 November 2030. Candidates shall file as provided in Section
2021 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in
2022 Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the
2023 Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judges elected shall serve
2024 four-year terms to begin January 1, 2027, and/or January 1, 2031,
2025 as applicable and the terms of those offices shall thereafter be
2026 as provided for chancellors and circuit judges generally.

2027 **SECTION 82.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
2028 and after July 1, 2025.

