

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-5, 9-7-9,
2 9-7-13, 9-7-15, 9-7-17, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25,
3 9-7-26, 9-7-27, 9-7-29, 9-7-30, 9-7-31, 9-7-32, 9-7-33, 9-7-34,
4 9-7-41, 9-7-43, 9-7-45, 9-7-46, 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-53, 9-7-55,
5 9-7-57, 9-7-63 AND 9-7-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE
6 FOR CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES, DISTRICTS AND TERMS OF COURT FOR
7 DISTRICTS ONE TO TWENTY-THREE, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND
8 SECTIONS 9-7-7, 9-7-11, 9-7-14, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-42,
9 9-7-44, 9-7-51 AND 9-7-54, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY
10 LANGUAGE IN PROVISIONS OF LAW FOR CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO
11 BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 9-5-1, 9-5-3, 9-5-5, 9-5-9, 9-5-11, 9-5-17,
12 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-27, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35,
13 9-5-37, 9-5-39, 9-5-40, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-45, 9-5-47, 9-5-49,
14 9-5-51, 9-5-53, 9-5-54, 9-5-55 AND 9-5-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
15 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR CHANCERY COURT JUDGES, DISTRICTS AND TERMS
16 OF COURT FOR DISTRICTS ONE TO TWENTY; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-7,
17 9-5-13, 9-5-15, 9-5-25, 9-5-29, 9-5-36, 9-5-38, 9-5-50 AND 9-5-58,
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY LANGUAGE IN PROVISIONS OF LAW
19 FOR CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 25-31-5
20 AND 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE
21 AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
22 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS, FOR
23 PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

27 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
28 circuit court district and the listing of individual precincts



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

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

9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be styled "The Circuit 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 circuit 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 the terms shall continue in circuit court districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by order of the circuit court judge 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 circuit 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 the terms of court shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of each county within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court for each of the counties within any circuit court district shall remain unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any order entered under the provisions of this 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:

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.



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

129 9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District is composed of the
130 following counties:

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

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

136 9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the Second
137 Circuit Court District.

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

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

144 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District is composed of the
145 following counties:

- 146 (a) Benton County;
- 147 (b) Calhoun County;
- 148 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 149 (d) Lafayette County;
- 150 (e) Marshall County;
- 151 (f) Tippah County; and



(g) Union County.

SECTION 8. Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended 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."

SECTION 9. Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward 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, North Greenwood, Money, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West Greenwood, Mississippi Valley State University and Southeast 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;

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

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

(d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following precincts in Washington County: St. James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan Health Clinic, Italian Club, Ward's Recreation Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Avon



Health Center, Kapco Company, Brent Center, William Percy Library
and Grace Methodist Church Precincts.

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Attala County;
- (b) Carroll County;
- (c) Choctaw County;
- (d) Grenada County;
- (e) Montgomery County;
- (f) Webster County; and
- (g) Winston County.

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

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



(2) 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 13. Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Adams County;
- (b) Amite County;
- (c) Franklin County; and
- (d) Wilkinson County.

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

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

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

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

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



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

254 (ii) Amite County: Amite River, East Fork, East
255 Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion, Oneil,
256 Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw, Walls
257 and Zion Hills.

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

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

263 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
264 Hinds County.

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

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

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



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

279 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
280 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
281 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
282 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
283 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
284 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

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

287 9-7-25. (1) There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
288 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
289 from each subdistrict.

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

297 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-7-26, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
298 brought forward as follows:



299 9-7-26. (1) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall
300 appoint four (4) temporary special circuit judges for the Seventh
301 Circuit Court District. No limitation whatsoever shall be placed
302 upon the powers and duties of the judges other than those provided
303 by the Constitution and laws of this state. The term of the
304 temporary special circuit judges shall expire on December 31,
305 2026.

306 (2) The judges shall be appointed no later than fifteen (15)
307 days after July 1, 2023 according to applicable state laws. The
308 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court may elect to reappoint circuit
309 judges that are serving on a temporary basis as of July 1, 2023 in
310 the Seventh Circuit Court District.

311 (3) (a) Each temporary special circuit judge shall receive
312 an office operating allowance to be used for the purposes
313 described and in amounts equal to those authorized in Section
314 9-1-36.

315 (b) The Administrative Office of Courts shall establish
316 personnel policies to compensate the support staff for each
317 temporary special circuit judge.

318 (4) This section shall stand repealed on December 31, 2026.

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

321 9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District is composed
322 of the following counties:

323 (a) Leake County;



324 (b) Neshoba County;
325 (c) Newton County; and
326 (d) Scott County.

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

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

332 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
333 brought forward as follows:

334 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of
335 the following counties:

336 (a) Issaquena County;
337 (b) Sharkey County; and
338 (c) Warren County.

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

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

346 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following
347 precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Bovina, Cedar
348 Grove*, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Jett, Kings*, Moose Lodge,



Number 7 Fire Station*, Oak Ridge, Plumbers Hall, Redwood,
Tingleville, Vicksburg Junior High School*, YMCA and Yokena.

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

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

SECTION 20. Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Clarke County;
- (b) Kemper County;
- (c) Lauderdale County; and
- (d) Wayne County.

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

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

(2) 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 22. Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
brought forward as follows:



373 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
374 of the following counties:

- 375 (a) Bolivar County;
- 376 (b) Coahoma County;
- 377 (c) Quitman County; and
- 378 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

383 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle,
384 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East
385 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, Gunnison, Longshot, North Cleveland,
386 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace, Scott, Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*,
387 Stringtown, West Central Cleveland, West Cleveland and West
388 Rosedale; and

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

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

393 (i) Bolivar County: Cleveland Eastgate,
394 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
395 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Renova, Shelby, South
396 Cleveland* and Winstonville;



397 (ii) Coahoma County: Cagle Crossing, Clarksdale
398 1-4*, Clarksdale 3-3, Clarksdale 3-4, Clarksdale 4-2, Clarksdale
399 4-3, Dublin and Roundaway; and

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

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

404 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale 1-4*, Clarksdale
405 2-4*, Clarksdale 5-4*, Coahoma, Farrell*, Friar's Point,
406 Jonestown, Lula, Lyon and Sherard*; and

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

409 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
410 brought forward as follows:

411 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
412 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
413 subdistrict.

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

416 9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District is composed
417 of the following counties:

418 (a) Forrest County; and

419 (b) Perry County.

420 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth Circuit
421 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and



422 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
423 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

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

426 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
427 composed of the following counties:

- 428 (a) Covington County;
- 429 (b) Jasper County;
- 430 (c) Simpson County; and
- 431 (d) Smith County.

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

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

438 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
439 composed of the following counties:

- 440 (a) Lincoln County;
- 441 (b) Pike County; and
- 442 (c) Walthall County.

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



(b) 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 27. Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

- (a) Jefferson Davis County;
- (b) Lamar County;
- (c) Lawrence County;
- (d) Marion County; and
- (e) Pearl River County.

SECTION 28. Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended 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 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.

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;



495 (c) Tate County; and

496 (d) Yalobusha County.

497 **SECTION 32.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
498 brought forward as follows:

499 9-7-46. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the
500 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

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

504 **SECTION 33.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
505 brought forward as follows:

506 9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones
507 County.

508 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
509 brought forward as follows:

510 9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District is
511 composed of the following counties:

512 (a) George County;

513 (b) Greene County; and

514 (c) Jackson County.

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



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

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

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

(a) Madison County; and

(b) Rankin County.

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

9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Twentieth 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 reside in Rankin County, the judge to fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

SECTION 38. Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

SECTION 39. Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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

SECTION 40. Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

SECTION 41. Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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



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

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



595 twice a year. Court shall be held in chancery court districts
596 consisting of a single county on the same dates state agencies and
597 political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal
598 holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the
599 number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court
600 districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by
601 order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of
602 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
603 a term if the interest of justice so requires.

604 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
605 of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court
606 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
607 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
608 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to
609 become effective. Notice of the dates upon which terms of court
610 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
611 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
612 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
613 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
614 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
615 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court
616 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
617 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.



(3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery 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 caseload of each chancellor 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 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the



643 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
644 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
645 of more than one (1) county.

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

648 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District is composed of the
649 following counties:

- 650 (a) Alcorn County;
- 651 (b) Itawamba County;
- 652 (c) Lee County;
- 653 (d) Monroe County;
- 654 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 655 (f) Prentiss County;
- 656 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 657 (h) Union County.

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

660 9-5-7. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
661 First Chancery Court District.

662 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
663 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
664 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
665 "Place Four." The chancellor to fill Place One must be a resident
666 of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The chancellors to fill
667 Place Two and Place Three must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe,



668 Pontotoc or Union County. The chancellor to fill Place Four may
669 be a resident of any county in the district. Election of the four
670 (4) offices of chancellor shall be by election to be held in every
671 county within the First Chancery Court District.

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

674 9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the
675 following counties:

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

679 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
680 brought forward as follows:

681 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
682 of the following counties:

- 683 (a) DeSoto County;
- 684 (b) Grenada County;
- 685 (c) Montgomery County;
- 686 (d) Panola County;
- 687 (e) Tate County; and
- 688 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

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



692 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
693 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
694 County.

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

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

698 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
699 Third Chancery Court District.

700 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
701 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2
702 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
703 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

704 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
705 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
706 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
707 "Place One * * *", and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2
708 shall be denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

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

711 9-5-13. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
712 Third Chancery Court District.

713 (2) (a) The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be
714 elected from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of
715 Subdistrict 3-2 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery
716 County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.



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

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

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

- (a) Amite County;
- (b) Franklin County;
- (c) Pike County; and
- (d) Walthall County.

(2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth 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 * * *".

SECTION 50. Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

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

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



742 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
743 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
744 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
745 and 97.

746 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
747 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
748 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
749 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

750 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
751 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
752 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
753 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.

754 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
755 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
756 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
757 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old
758 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
759 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

760 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
761 brought forward as follows:

762 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
763 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
764 elected from each subdistrict.

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



767 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
768 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
769 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
770 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
771 the court.

772 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
773 brought forward as follows:

774 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
775 following counties:

- 776 (a) Attala County;
- 777 (b) Carroll County;
- 778 (c) Choctaw County;
- 779 (d) Kemper County;
- 780 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 781 (f) Winston County.

782 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
783 brought forward as follows:

784 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
785 Sixth Chancery Court District.

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

789 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
790 brought forward as follows:



791 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed
792 of the following counties:

- 793 (a) Bolivar County;
794 (b) Coahoma County;
795 (c) Leflore County;
796 (d) Quitman County;
797 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
798 (f) Tunica County.

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

- 801 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
802 Coahoma County;
803 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
804 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

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

807 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
808 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
809 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
810 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
811 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", and two (2)
812 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
813 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
814 "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".



815 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
816 brought forward as follows:

817 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
818 the following counties:

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

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

824 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
825 Eighth Chancery Court District.

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

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

837 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
838 brought forward as follows:



839 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
840 of the following counties:

- 841 (a) Humphreys County;
- 842 (b) Issaquena County;
- 843 (c) Sharkey County;
- 844 (d) Sunflower County;
- 845 (e) Warren County; and
- 846 (f) Washington County.

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

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

851 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
852 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
853 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
854 and Sunflower Plantation; and

855 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
856 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
857 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
858 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
859 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

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

862 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
863 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3



864 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
865 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

866 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
867 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
868 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
869 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
870 Ward's Recreation Center.

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

873 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
874 brought forward as follows:

875 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
876 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
877 each subdistrict.

878 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
879 brought forward as follows:

880 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
881 following counties:

- 882 (a) Forrest County;
883 (b) Lamar County;
884 (c) Marion County;
885 (d) Pearl River County; and
886 (e) Perry County.

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



889 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
890 Tenth Chancery Court District.

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

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

903 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is
904 composed of the following counties:

- 905 (a) Holmes County;
- 906 (b) Leake County;
- 907 (c) Madison County; and
- 908 (d) Yazoo County.

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

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



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

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

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

927 9-5-38. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
928 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
929 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
930 elected from Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes of
931 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", one (1)
932 chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated
933 for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place
934 Two * * *", and one (1) chancellor shall be elected at large from
935 the entire Eleventh Chancery Court District and denominated for
936 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 brought forward 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

(e) Smith County.

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



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

963 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
964 brought forward as follows:

965 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
966 composed of the following counties:

- 967 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 968 (b) Clay County;
- 969 (c) Lowndes County;
- 970 (d) Noxubee County;
- 971 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 972 (f) Webster County.

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

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

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



985 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
986 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and
987 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
988 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
989 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
990 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
991 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
992 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
993 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
994 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
995 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.
996 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
997 and the following precincts in the following counties:
998 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
999 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;
1000 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
1001 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,
1002 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
1003 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
1004 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
1005 B; and
1006 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
1007 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
1008 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
1009 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.



1010 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1011 brought forward as follows:

1012 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1013 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1014 elected from each subdistrict.

1015 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1016 brought forward as follows:

1017 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1018 the following counties:

- 1019 (a) Copeiah County; and
- 1020 (b) Lincoln County.

1021 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1022 brought forward as follows:

1023 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1024 the following counties:

- 1025 (a) George County;
- 1026 (b) Greene County; and
- 1027 (c) Jackson County.

1028 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1029 amended as follows:

1030 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1031 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

1032 (2) The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
1033 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1034 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two" and "Place Three."



SECTION 72. Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward 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.

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



1059 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1060 of the following counties:

- 1061 (a) Benton County;
- 1062 (b) Calhoun County;
- 1063 (c) Lafayette County;
- 1064 (d) Marshall County; and
- 1065 (e) Tippah County.

1066 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1067 brought forward as follows:

1068 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1069 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

1070 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1071 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1072 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1073 **SECTION 75.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1074 brought forward as follows:

1075 9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1076 of the following counties:

- 1077 (a) Jones County; and
- 1078 (b) Wayne County.

1079 **SECTION 76.** Section 9-5-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1080 brought forward as follows:

1081 9-5-57. The Twentieth Chancery Court District shall be
1082 Rankin County.



1083 **SECTION 77.** Section 9-5-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1084 amended as follows:

1085 9-5-58. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1086 Twentieth Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1087 and election the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
1088 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1089 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *".

1090 **SECTION 78.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1091 brought forward as follows:

1092 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1093 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1094 districts:

1095 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1096 legal assistants.

1097 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
1098 legal assistants.

1099 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1100 legal assistants.

1101 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
1102 legal assistants.

1103 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1104 legal assistants.

1105 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1106 legal assistants.



1107 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... twelve (12)
1108 legal assistants. Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2025,
1109 the Seventh Circuit Court District shall have fourteen (14) legal
1110 assistants.

1111 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1112 legal assistants.

1113 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1114 legal assistants.

1115 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1116 legal assistants.

1117 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1118 legal assistants.

1119 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1120 legal assistants.

1121 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
1122 legal assistants.

1123 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1124 legal assistants.

1125 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1126 legal assistants.

1127 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1128 legal assistants.

1129 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1130 legal assistants.



1131 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1132 legal assistants.

1133 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1134 legal assistants.

1135 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1136 legal assistants.

1137 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1138 legal assistants.

1139 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1140 legal assistants.

1141 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
1142 legal assistants.

1143 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1144 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1145 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1146 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1147 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1148 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1149 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1150 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1151 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1152 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1153 district pursuant to this subsection:

1154 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1155 legal assistants.



1156 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1157 legal assistants.
1158 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1159 legal assistants.
1160 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1161 legal assistants.
1162 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1163 legal assistants.
1164 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1165 legal assistants.
1166 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1167 legal assistants.
1168 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1169 legal assistants.
1170 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1171 legal assistants.
1172 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1173 legal assistants.
1174 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1175 legal assistants.
1176 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1177 legal assistants.
1178 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1179 legal assistants.



1180 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1181 legal assistants.
1182 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1183 legal assistants.
1184 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1185 legal assistants.
1186 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1187 legal assistants.
1188 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1189 legal assistants.
1190 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1191 legal assistants.
1192 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1193 legal assistants.
1194 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1195 legal assistants.
1196 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1197 legal assistants.
1198 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1199 legal assistants.
1200 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1201 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1202 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1203 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1204 this section.



1205 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1206 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1207 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1208 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1209 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1210 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1211 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1212 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1213 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1214 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1215 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1216 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1217 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1218 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1219 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1220 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1221 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
1222 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1223 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1224 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
1225 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1226 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1227 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1228 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1229 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which



1230 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1231 Office.

1232 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1233 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1234 for such legal assistants.

1235 **SECTION 79.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1236 brought forward as follows:

1237 25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time
1238 criminal investigator.

1239 (2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth,
1240 Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,
1241 Seventeenth, Twentieth and Twenty-first Circuit Court Districts
1242 may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for
1243 a total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

1244 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
1245 Fourth, Nineteenth and Twenty-third Circuit Court Districts may
1246 appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators for a
1247 total of three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

1248 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
1249 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
1250 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
1251 investigators.

1252 (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1253 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1254 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



1280 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1281 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to
1282 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a
1283 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be
1284 a state employee.

1285 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1286 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1287 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1288 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1289 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1290 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1291 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1292 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1293 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1294 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1295 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1296 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1297 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1298 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1299 fulfilling that duty.

1300 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1301 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1302 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1303 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a



1304 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1305 court judge.

1306 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1307 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1308 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1309 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of
1310 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1311 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1312 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1313 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1314 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1315 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1316 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1317 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1318 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1319 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1320 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1321 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1322 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1323 municipality.

1324 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1325 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1326 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1327 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
1328 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes



1329 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
1330 operation of the victim assistance program.

1331 **SECTION 81.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1332 and after July 1, 2025.

