

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544
(As Passed the House)

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



35 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI
36 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS,
37 FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

54 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
55 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the
56 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
57 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
58 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
59 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be
60 held in circuit court districts consisting of a single county on
61 the same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open



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

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



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

213 9-7-14. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) judges for the
214 Third Circuit Court District.

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

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

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

226 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
227 composed of the following counties:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

257 (ii) Sunflower County: Moorhead, Inverness,
258 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.

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

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

(a) Holmes County;

(b) Humphreys County;

(* * * c) Leflore County;

(* * * d) Sunflower County; and

(* * * e) Washington County.

* * *

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

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read 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.

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

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

(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 shall be a resident of Washington County. The judge to fill Place Two shall be a resident of Leflore, Holmes or Humphreys County. The judge to fill Place Three may be a resident of any county in the district.

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



309 (g) Winston County.

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

312 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth
313 Circuit Court District.

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

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

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

320 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
321 the following counties:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

352 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
353 the following counties:

- 354 (a) Adams County;
355 (b) Amite County;
356 (c) Franklin County; and
357 (d) Wilkinson County.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,



383 49*, 50, 51*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63*,
384 64*, * * * 67, 68, 69, 70*, 71, 86 * * * and 89 * * *.

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

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

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

396 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
397 Claiborne County, Hinds County and Jefferson County.

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

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

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



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

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

417 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of Claiborne County
418 and Jefferson County.

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

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

424 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
425 Claiborne County, Hinds County and Jefferson County.

426 * * *

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

429 **[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.

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

9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) 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" and "Place Five". 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.

(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.

SECTION 16. A special election shall be held to fill the office of circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit Court District. The special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in November, 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve 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



529 Store*, American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove*,
530 Cherry Grove, Cherry Street*, Kings*, * * * and St.
531 Aloysius * * *.

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

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

539 9-7-29. * * * The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed
540 of the following counties:

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

545 * * *

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

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

549 9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit
550 Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
551 subdistrict.

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



9-7-30. There shall be two (2) judges for the Ninth Circuit Court District. * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict 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 Warren County. The judge to fill Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district.

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

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read 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.

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

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

- (a) Clarke County;
- (b) Kemper County; and
- (c) Lauderdale 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 amended as follows:

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

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

- (a) Bolivar County;
- (b) Coahoma County;
- (c) Quitman County; and
- (d) Tunica County.

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

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

(i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle*, Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*, East Rosedale, * * * Longshot, North Cleveland, Northwest Cleveland*, Pace*, Round Lake Gunnison Deeson, Scott,



602 Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*, Stringtown, West Central Cleveland,
603 West Cleveland and West Rosedale; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

621 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale * * * 2*,
622 Clarksdale * * * 5*, * * * Clarksdale Courthouse*, Coahoma,
623 Farrell*, Friar's Point, Jonestown, Lula * * * and Lyons * * *;
624 and



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

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

630 9-7-33. * * * The Eleventh Circuit Court District is
631 composed of the following counties:

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

636 * * *

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

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

640 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
641 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
642 subdistrict.

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

645 9-7-34. There shall be * * * two (2) judges for the Eleventh
646 Circuit Court District. * * * The two (2) judgeships shall be
647 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
648 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The judge to
649 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
and election only as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *" and
"Place Three". The judges to fill Place One and Place Two may



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

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

684 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
685 composed of the following counties:

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

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

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

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

697 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
698 composed of the following counties:

- 699 (a) Lincoln County;



700 (b) Pike County; and

701 (c) Walthall County.

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

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

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

709 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
710 composed of the following counties:

711 (a) * * * Copiah County;

712 (b) * * * Jefferson Davis County; * * *

713 (c) * * * Lawrence County * * * ; and

714 (d) Lincoln County.

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

717 (b) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
718 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
719 only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The judge to fill Place One
720 must be a resident of Lincoln County. The judge to fill Place Two
721 must be a resident of either Lawrence, Copiah or Jefferson
722 County.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

747 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
748 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
749 "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:



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 amended as follows:

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

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

(a) Holmes County;

(b) Humphreys County; and

(c) Yazoo County.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

918 * * *

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

945 [From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as
946 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



996 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
997 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
998 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
999 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
1000 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
1001 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court
1002 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
1003 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.

1004 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
1005 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
1006 following criteria:

- 1007 (a) The population of the district;
- 1008 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
- 1009 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;
- 1010 (d) The geographic area of the district;
- 1011 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
1012 court personnel of the district; and
- 1013 (f) Any other appropriate criteria.

1014 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
1015 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
1016 the appropriate:

- 1017 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
1018 applying the above criteria;
- 1019 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
1020 data; and



1021 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

1022 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of
1023 chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the
1024 powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the
1025 chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a
1026 chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served
1027 longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for
1028 the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the
1029 senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to
1030 assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting
1031 of more than one (1) county.

1032 **SECTION 44.** Section 9-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1033 brought forward as follows:

1034 9-5-5. The First Chancery Court District is composed of the
1035 following counties:

- 1036 (a) Alcorn County;
- 1037 (b) Itawamba County;
- 1038 (c) Lee County;
- 1039 (d) Monroe County;
- 1040 (e) Pontotoc County;
- 1041 (f) Prentiss County;
- 1042 (g) Tishomingo County; and
- 1043 (h) Union County.

1044 **SECTION 45.** Section 9-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1045 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;



1071 (* * *b) Jasper County;
1072 (c) Jefferson Davis County;
1073 (* * *d) Newton County; * * *
1074 (e) Simpson County;
1075 (* * *f) Scott County * * *; and
1076 (g) Smith County.

1077 (2) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Second
1078 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
1079 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1080 and election only as "Place One", "Place Two" and "Place Three".
1081 Place One chancellor may reside in Scott County, Newton County or
1082 Jasper County. Place Two chancellor may reside in Simpson, Smith,
1083 Covington or Jefferson Davis County. Place Three chancellor may
1084 reside in any county in the district.

1085 **SECTION 47.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1086 amended as follows:

1087 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1088 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
1089 of the following counties:

1090 (a) DeSoto County;
1091 (b) Grenada County;
1092 (c) Montgomery County;
1093 (d) Panola County;
1094 (e) Tate County; and
1095 (f) Yalobusha County.



1096 (2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1097 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

1098 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.

1099 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,
1100 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha
1101 County.

1102 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1103 **follows:]**

1104 9-5-11. * * * The Third Chancery Court District is composed
1105 of the following counties:

1106 (a) * * * Carroll County;

1107 (b) Grenada County;

1108 (c) Montgomery County;

1109 (d) Panola County;

1110 (e) Tate County; and

1111 (f) Yalobusha County.

1112 * * *

1113 **SECTION 48.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1114 amended as follows:

1115 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1116 9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1117 Third Chancery Court District.

1118 (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected
1119 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2



1120 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola
1121 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

1122 (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three
1123 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The
1124 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as
1125 "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be
1126 denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

1127 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1128 **follows:]**

1129 9-5-13. (1) There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for
1130 the Third Chancery Court District. For purposes of appointment
1131 and election, the two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1132 distinct and denominated as "Place One" and "Place Two".

1133 (2) * * * The * * * chancellor of * * * Place One
1134 shall * * * reside in Tate County, Panola County or Yalobusha
1135 County. The * * * chancellor of * * * Place Two shall * * *
1136 reside in Carroll County, Grenada County or Montgomery
1137 County * * *.

1138 * * *

1139 **SECTION 49.** Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1140 amended as follows:

1141 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1142 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
1143 of the following counties:

1144 (a) Amite County;



1145 (b) Franklin County;
1146 (c) Pike County; and
1147 (d) Walthall County.

1148 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth
1149 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1150 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1151 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

1152 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1153 **follows:]**

1154 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
1155 of the following counties:

1156 (a) Adams County;
1157 (* * * b) Amite County;
1158 (* * * c) Franklin County;
1159 (d) Jefferson County;
1160 (* * * e) Pike County; and
1161 (* * * f) * * * Wilkinson County.

1162 (2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
1163 Fourth Chancery Court District. The * * * three (3)
1164 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1165 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" * * *
1166 "Place Two * * *" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One
1167 must reside in Adams County or Jefferson County. The chancellor
1168 for Place Two must reside in Amite County or Wilkinson County.



1169 The chancellor for Place Three must reside in Franklin County or
1170 Pike County.

1171 **SECTION 50.** Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1172 amended as follows:

1173 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1174 9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
1175 of Hinds County.

1176 (2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1177 the following four (4) subdistricts:

1178 (a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
1179 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33, 34,
1180 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96
1181 and 97.

1182 (b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
1183 precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 23, 27,
1184 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
1185 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

1186 (c) Subdistrict 5-3 shall consist of the following
1187 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
1188 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66,
1189 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 86, 89 and Jackson State.

1190 (d) Subdistrict 5-4 shall consist of the following
1191 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
1192 1, Byram 2, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3,
1193 Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old



1194 Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas,
1195 Terry, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

1196 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1197 **follows:]**

1198 9-5-17. * * * The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
1199 of Hinds County.

1200 * * *

1201 **SECTION 51.** Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1202 amended as follows:

1203 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1204 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1205 Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1206 elected from each subdistrict.

1207 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1208 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
1209 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1210 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
1211 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
1212 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
1213 the court.

1214 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1215 **follows:]**

1216 9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1217 Fifth Chancery Court District. * * * The four (4) chancellorships
1218 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of



1219 appointment and election only as "Place One", "Place Two", "Place
1220 Three" and "Place Four".

1221 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1222 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
1223 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1224 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
1225 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
1226 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
1227 the court.

1228 **SECTION 52.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1229 amended as follows:

1230 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1231 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1232 following counties:

- 1233 (a) Attala County;
1234 (b) Carroll County;
1235 (c) Choctaw County;
1236 (d) Kemper County;
1237 (e) Neshoba County; and
1238 (f) Winston County.

1239 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1240 **follows:]**

1241 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1242 following counties:

- 1243 (a) Attala County;



1244 * * *

1245 (* * *b) Choctaw County;

1246 (* * *c) Kemper County;

1247 (* * *d) Neshoba County; * * *

1248 (e) Webster County; and

1249 (f) Winston County.

1250 **SECTION 53.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1251 amended as follows:

1252 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1253 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1254 Sixth Chancery Court District.

1255 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1256 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1257 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1258 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1259 **follows:]**

1260 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1261 Sixth Chancery Court District.

1262 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1263 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1264 only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The chancellor for "Place
1265 One" must reside in Attala County, Choctaw County or Webster
1266 County. The chancellor for "Place Two" must reside in Winston
1267 County, Neshoba County or Kemper County.



1268 **SECTION 54.** Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1269 amended as follows:

1270 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1271 9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed
1272 of the following counties:

- 1273 (a) Bolivar County;
- 1274 (b) Coahoma County;
- 1275 (c) Leflore County;
- 1276 (d) Quitman County;
- 1277 (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- 1278 (f) Tunica County.

1279 (2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
1280 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- 1281 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and
1282 Coahoma County;
- 1283 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County,
1284 Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

1285 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1286 **follows:]**

1287 9-5-23. * * * The Seventh Chancery Court District is
1288 composed of the following counties:

- 1289 (a) Bolivar County;
- 1290 (b) Coahoma County;
- 1291 (c) Leflore County;
- 1292 (d) Quitman County;



1293 (e) Tallahatchie County; and

1294 (f) Tunica County.

1295 * * *

1296 **SECTION 55.** Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1297 amended as follows:

1298 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1299 9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh
1300 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
1301 separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1302 Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of
1303 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", and two (2)
1304 chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be
1305 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
1306 "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *".

1307 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1308 **follows:]**

1309 9-5-25. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the
1310 Seventh Chancery Court District. The * * * two (2)
1311 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct * * *, and shall be
1312 denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
1313 "Place One", and * * * "Place Two" * * *. The chancellor for
1314 Place One must reside in Bolivar County or Coahoma County. The
1315 chancellor for Place Two must reside in Leflore County, Quitman
1316 County, Tallahatchie County or Tunica County.



1317 **SECTION 56.** Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1318 amended as follows:

1319 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1320 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
1321 the following counties:

- 1322 (a) Hancock County;
- 1323 (b) Harrison County; and
- 1324 (c) Stone County.

1325 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1326 **follows:]**

1327 9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of
1328 the following counties:

- 1329 (a) Hancock County; and
- 1330 (b) Harrison County * * *.

1331 * * *

1332 **SECTION 57.** Section 9-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1333 amended as follows:

1334 9-5-29. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1335 Eighth Chancery Court District.

1336 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
1337 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1338 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and
1339 "Place Four."

1340 (3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
1341 powers and duties of the chancellors other than as cast upon them



1342 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
1343 Eighth Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
1344 chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a matter of
1345 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
1346 court.

1347 **SECTION 58.** Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1348 amended as follows:

1349 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1350 9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
1351 of the following counties:

- 1352 (a) Humphreys County;
- 1353 (b) Issaquena County;
- 1354 (c) Sharkey County;
- 1355 (d) Sunflower County;
- 1356 (e) Warren County; and
- 1357 (f) Washington County.

1358 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
1359 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

1360 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
1361 precincts in the following counties:

- 1362 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
1363 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
1364 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
1365 and Sunflower Plantation; and



1366 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
1367 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
1368 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
1369 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
1370 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

1371 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
1372 and the following precincts in the following counties:

1373 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
1374 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
1375 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
1376 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

1377 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
1378 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
1379 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
1380 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
1381 Ward's Recreation Center.

1382 (c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County,
1383 Sharkey County and Warren County.

1384 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1385 **follows:]**

1386 9-5-31. * * * The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed
1387 of the following counties:

1388 (a) Humphreys County;

1389 (b) Issaquena County;

1390 (c) Sharkey County;



1391 (d) Sunflower County;
1392 (e) Warren County; and
1393 (f) Washington County.

1394 * * *

1395 **SECTION 59.** Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1396 amended as follows:

1397 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

1398 9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth
1399 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
1400 each subdistrict.

1401 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
1402 **follows:]**

1403 9-5-33. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the
1404 Ninth Chancery Court District. * * * The two (2) chancellorships
1405 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
1406 appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The
1407 chancellor for Place One must reside in Humphreys County,
1408 Sunflower County or Washington County. The chancellor for Place
1409 Two must reside in Issaquena County, Sharkey County or Warren
1410 County.

1411 **SECTION 60.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1412 amended as follows:

1413 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1414 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1415 following counties:



- 1416 (a) Forrest County;
1417 (b) Lamar County;
1418 (c) Marion County;
1419 (d) Pearl River County; and
1420 (e) Perry County.

1421 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1422 **follows:]**

1423 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
1424 following counties:

1425 * * *

- 1426 (* * *a) Lamar County;
1427 (* * *b) Marion County; and
1428 (* * *c) Pearl River County * * *.

1429 * * *

1430 **SECTION 61.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1431 amended as follows:

1432 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1433 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
1434 Tenth Chancery Court District.

1435 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
1436 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1437 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
1438 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may be a resident
1439 of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill Place Two
1440 must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County.



1441 The chancellor to fill Place Three must be a resident of Forrest
1442 County. Election of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be
1443 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
1444 Court District.

1445 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1446 **follows:]**

1447 9-5-36. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for
1448 the Tenth Chancery Court District.

1449 (2) The * * * three (3) chancellorships shall be separate
1450 and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and
1451 election only as "Place One," "Place Two * * *" and "Place
1452 Three" * * *. The chancellor to fill Place One * * * may be a
1453 resident of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill
1454 Place Two must be a resident of Lamar * * * County. The
1455 chancellor to fill Place Three * * * may be a resident of any
1456 county in the district. * * *

1457 **SECTION 62.** Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1458 brought forward as follows:

1459 9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is
1460 composed of the following counties:

- 1461 (a) Holmes County;
1462 (b) Leake County;
1463 (c) Madison County; and
1464 (d) Yazoo County.



1465 (2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided
1466 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

1467 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County,
1468 Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: Bible
1469 Church, Canton 4, Canton 5, Flora, Madison County Baptist Family
1470 Life Center, Magnolia Heights and Smith School;

1471 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and
1472 the following precincts in Madison County: Bear Creek, Camden,
1473 Cameron, Canton 1, Canton 2, Canton 3, Canton 7, Cedar Grove,
1474 Cobblestone, Couparle, Gluckstadt, Highland Colony Baptist Church,
1475 Liberty, Lorman/Cavalier, Luther Branson School, Madison 1,
1476 Madison 2, Madison 3, Main Harbor, New Industrial Park, North Bay,
1477 Ratliff Ferry, Ridgeland 1, Ridgeland 3, Ridgeland 4, Ridgeland
1478 First Methodist Church, Ridgeland Tennis Center, Sharon,
1479 Sunnybrook, Tougaloo, Trace Harbor, Victory Baptist Church,
1480 Virililia, Whisper Lake and Yandell Road.

1481 **SECTION 63.** Section 9-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1482 amended as follows:

1483 9-5-38. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1484 Eleventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships
1485 shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be
1486 elected from Subdistrict 11-1 and denominated for purposes of
1487 appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", one (1)
1488 chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 11-2 and denominated
1489 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



1515 (e) Smith County.

1516 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
1517 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1518 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1519 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1520 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1521 **follows:]**

1522 9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is
1523 composed of the following counties:

- 1524 (a) * * * Forrest County;
- 1525 (b) * * * Greene County;
- 1526 (c) * * * Perry County; and
- 1527 (d) * * * Stone County.

1528 * * *

1529 (2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
1530 Thirteenth Chancery Court District. The * * * three (3)
1531 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1532 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and
1533 "Place Two * * *" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One
1534 must reside in Forrest County. The chancellor for Place Two may
1535 reside in any county in the district, except Forrest County. The
1536 chancellor for Place Three shall reside and be elected from the
1537 following precincts in Forrest County: Camp School, Court Street,
1538 Dixie Pine-Central, Eatonville, Eureka School, Glendale, Hardy
1539 Street, Hattiesburg Cultural Center, Highland Park, Lillie Burney



1540 School, North Heights, Pinecrest, Rawls Springs, Rowan School,
1541 Sigler Center, Thames School, Train Depot, West Hills and
1542 Westside.

1543 **SECTION 67.** Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1544 amended as follows:

1545 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1546 9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
1547 composed of the following counties:

- 1548 (a) Chickasaw County;
- 1549 (b) Clay County;
- 1550 (c) Lowndes County;
- 1551 (d) Noxubee County;
- 1552 (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- 1553 (f) Webster County.

1554 (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
1555 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

- 1556 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County,
1557 Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:
1558 Bell Schoolhouse*, Bradley, Center Grove, Central Starkville*,
1559 Craig Springs, Double Springs, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street
1560 Center*, Maben, North Adaton, North Longview, North Starkville 2*,
1561 North Starkville 3, Northeast Starkville, Self Creek, South
1562 Adaton, South Longview, South Starkville*, Sturgis and West
1563 Starkville*.



1564 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
1565 precincts in the following counties:

1566 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
1567 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and

1568 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
1569 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
1570 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
1571 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
1572 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
1573 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
1574 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
1575 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
1576 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.

1577 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
1578 and the following precincts in the following counties:

1579 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
1580 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

1581 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
1582 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,
1583 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
1584 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
1585 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
1586 B; and

1587 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
1588 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,



1589 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
1590 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.

1591 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1592 **follows:]**

1593 9-5-43. * * * The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
1594 composed of the following counties:

- 1595 (a) Chickasaw County;
1596 (b) Clay County;
1597 (c) Lowndes County;
1598 (d) Noxubee County; and
1599 (e) Oktibbeha County * * *.

1600 * * *

1601 **SECTION 68.** Section 9-5-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1602 amended as follows:

1603 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1604 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1605 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
1606 elected from each subdistrict.

1607 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1608 **follows:]**

1609 9-5-45. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
1610 Fourteenth Chancery Court District. * * * The three (3)
1611 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
1612 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One", "Place
1613 Two" and "Place Three". The chancellor for Place One must reside



1614 in Chickasaw County, Clay County or Oktibbeha County. The
1615 chancellor for Place Two must reside in Lowndes County or Noxubee
1616 County. The chancellor for Place Three must reside and be elected
1617 from Noxubee County, and any of the following precincts in Lowndes
1618 County: 15th Street Church, Artesia, Coleman, Crawford, Hunt*,
1619 Plum Grove, Southside Church, Townsend Park, Trinity, West
1620 Lowndes; and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County: Hickory
1621 Grove/Southeast Oktibbeha*, Oktoc and Sessums.

1622 **SECTION 69.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1623 amended as follows:

1624 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1625 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1626 the following counties:

- 1627 (a) Copiah County; and
1628 (b) Lincoln County.

1629 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1630 **follows:]**

1631 9-5-47. (1) The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is
1632 composed of the following counties:

- 1633 (a) Claiborne County
1634 (* * *b) Copiah County; * * *
1635 (c) Lawrence County;
1636 (* * *d) Lincoln County * * *; and
1637 (e) Walthall County.



1638 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fifteenth
1639 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
1640 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
1641 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The chancellor
1642 for Place One must reside in Copiah County, Claiborne County or
1643 Lawrence County. The chancellor for Place Two must reside in
1644 Lincoln County or Walthall County.

1645 **SECTION 70.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1646 amended as follows:

1647 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

1648 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1649 the following counties:

- 1650 (a) George County;
- 1651 (b) Greene County; and
- 1652 (c) Jackson County.

1653 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
1654 **follows:]**

1655 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
1656 the following counties:

- 1657 (a) George County; and

1658 * * *

- 1659 (* * *b) Jackson County.

1660 **SECTION 71.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1661 amended as follows:

1662 **[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



1712 for Place Three must reside in and be elected from the following
1713 precincts in DeSoto County: Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East,
1714 Horn Lake High School*, Horn Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake
1715 North, Horn Lake West, Northwest Community College*, Southhaven
1716 South and Southhaven West*.

1717 **SECTION 73.** Section 9-5-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1718 brought forward as follows:

1719 9-5-53. The Eighteenth Chancery Court District is composed
1720 of the following counties:

- 1721 (a) Benton County;
- 1722 (b) Calhoun County;
- 1723 (c) Lafayette County;
- 1724 (d) Marshall County; and
- 1725 (e) Tippah County.

1726 **SECTION 74.** Section 9-5-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1727 brought forward as follows:

1728 9-5-54. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
1729 Eighteenth Chancery Court District.

1730 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
1731 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1732 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

1733 **SECTION 75.** Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1734 amended as follows:

1735 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**



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

(a) Jones County; and

(b) Wayne County.

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

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

(a) Jones County; and

(b) Wayne County.

(2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Nineteenth 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 Jones County. The chancellor for Place Two must reside in Wayne County.

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

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

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

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



1761 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
1762 only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *".

1763 **SECTION 78.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1764 brought forward as follows:

1765 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
1766 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
1767 districts:

1768 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
1769 legal assistants.

1770 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
1771 legal assistants.

1772 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1773 legal assistants.

1774 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
1775 legal assistants.

1776 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1777 legal assistants.

1778 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1779 legal assistants.

1780 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... twelve (12)
1781 legal assistants. Effective July 1, 2023, through July 1, 2025,
1782 the Seventh Circuit Court District shall have fourteen (14) legal
1783 assistants.

1784 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1785 legal assistants.



1786 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
1787 legal assistants.
1788 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
1789 legal assistants.
1790 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1791 legal assistants.
1792 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
1793 legal assistants.
1794 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
1795 legal assistants.
1796 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1797 legal assistants.
1798 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1799 legal assistants.
1800 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
1801 legal assistants.
1802 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1803 legal assistants.
1804 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1805 legal assistants.
1806 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1807 legal assistants.
1808 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
1809 legal assistants.



1810 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
1811 legal assistants.

1812 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
1813 legal assistants.

1814 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
1815 legal assistants.

1816 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
1817 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
1818 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
1819 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
1820 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
1821 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
1822 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
1823 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
1824 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
1825 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
1826 district pursuant to this subsection:

1827 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1828 legal assistants.

1829 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1830 legal assistants.

1831 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1832 legal assistants.

1833 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1834 legal assistants.



1835 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1836 legal assistants.
1837 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1838 legal assistants.
1839 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1840 legal assistants.
1841 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1842 legal assistants.
1843 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1844 legal assistants.
1845 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1846 legal assistants.
1847 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1848 legal assistants.
1849 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1850 legal assistants.
1851 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1852 legal assistants.
1853 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1854 legal assistants.
1855 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1856 legal assistants.
1857 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1858 legal assistants.



1859 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1860 legal assistants.

1861 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1862 legal assistants.

1863 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1864 legal assistants.

1865 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1866 legal assistants.

1867 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1868 legal assistants.

1869 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1870 legal assistants.

1871 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)

1872 legal assistants.

1873 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1874 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1875 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1876 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1877 this section.

1878 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1879 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1880 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1881 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1882 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1883 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any



1884 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1885 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1886 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1887 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal
1888 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be
1889 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of
1890 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the
1891 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney
1892 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department
1893 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate
1894 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds
1895 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as
1896 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal
1897 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of
1898 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district
1899 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and
1900 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the
1901 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such
1902 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which
1903 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget
1904 Office.

1905 (5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1906 duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding
1907 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.



1958 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1959 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1960 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1961 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1962 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1963 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1964 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1965 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1966 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1967 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1968 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1969 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1970 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1971 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1972 fulfilling that duty.

1973 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1974 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1975 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1976 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1977 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1978 court judge.

1979 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1980 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1981 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1982 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of



1983 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1984 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1985 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1986 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1987 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1988 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1989 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1990 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1991 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1992 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve
1993 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1994 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1995 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1996 municipality.

1997 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1998 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1999 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
2000 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
2001 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
2002 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
2003 operation of the victim assistance program.

2004 **SECTION 81.** (1) A special election shall be held to fill the
2005 office of circuit judge for the Twenty-first Circuit Court District.
2006 The special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in November,
2007 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and



2008 shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections
2009 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan
2010 Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve until January
2011 1, 2027, unless the person is re-elected to fill such office in the
2012 November, 2026, election for judicial offices. The terms of those
2013 offices shall thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges
2014 generally.

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

2028 **SECTION 82.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
2029 and after July 1, 2025.

