

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-7, 9-7-11, 9-7-14,  
2 9-7-15, 9-7-17, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-29, 9-7-31, 9-7-33,  
3 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-44, 9-7-46, 9-7-47,  
4 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 9-7-5, 9-7-9, 9-7-13, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-27,  
11 9-7-32, 9-7-34, 9-7-43, 9-7-45 AND 9-7-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
12 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE NUMBER OF JUDGES AND TERMS FOR CIRCUIT  
13 COURTS FOR THE FIRST, THIRD, FIFTH, EIGHTH, TENTH, TWELFTH AND  
14 THIRTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO  
15 AMEND SECTIONS 25-31-5 AND 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
16 CONFORM THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND CRIMINAL  
17 INVESTIGATORS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
18 OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS, FOR  
19 PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

21 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
22 amended as follows:

23 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each  
24 circuit court district and the listing of individual counties and  
25 precincts shall be those counties and precincts as they existed  
26 on \* \* \* July 1, \* \* \* 2025. He may hold court in any other



27 district with the consent of the judge thereof, when in their  
28 opinion the public interest may require. The terms of all circuit  
29 judges hereafter elected shall begin on the first day of January  
30 1931 and their terms of office shall continue for four (4) years.  
31 A circuit judge shall be a resident of the district in which he or  
32 she serves \* \* \* by the date on which the person qualifies as a  
33 candidate for the judicial office. A circuit judge elected from a  
34 subdistrict shall not be required to be a resident of that  
35 subdistrict but shall be a resident of the circuit court district  
36 in which he or she seeks to serve by the date on which the person  
37 qualifies as a candidate for the judicial office.

38       **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
39 amended as follows:

40       9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number  
41 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the  
42 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be  
43 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of \_\_\_\_" shall be held in  
44 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having  
45 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be  
46 held \* \* \* on the same dates state agencies and political  
47 subdivisions are open for business excluding legal holidays. The  
48 dates upon which terms shall commence and the number of days for  
49 which the terms shall continue in circuit court districts  
50 consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by order of  
51 the circuit court judge in accordance with the provisions of



subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past a term if the interest of justice so requires.

(2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to become effective. There shall be no less than four (4) weeks between terms of court in any one county. Notice of the dates upon which the terms of court shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall continue in each of the counties within a circuit court district shall be posted in the office of the circuit clerk of each county within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court for each of the counties within any circuit court district shall remain unchanged for the next calendar year. A certified copy of any order entered under the provisions of this subsection shall, immediately upon the entry thereof, be delivered to the clerk of the board of supervisors in each of the counties within the circuit court district.

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

(a) The population of the district;



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

(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 and after 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 \* \* \* shall be a resident of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place Three \* \* \* shall be residents of a county in the 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.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

210                   (i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood\*, East  
211 Greenwood, Morgan City/Swiftown, North Itta Bena, Rising Sun,  
212 Sidon, South Greenwood, South Itta Bena, Southwest Greenwood and  
213 West Greenwood\*;

214                   ( \* \* \*ii) Sunflower County: \* \* \* Sunflower,  
215 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South, Indianola Southeast and  
216 Indianola 3 Northeast Precincts; and

217                   ( \* \* \*iii) Washington County: Darlove Baptist  
218 Church\*, Extension Building, \* \* \* Lake Vista Masonic Lodge,  
219 Metcalfe City Hall, Elks Club, Leland Rotary Club, Leland Health  
220 Department Clinic \* \* \*.

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

223                   \* \* \*



224 ( \* \* \*i) Sunflower County: Moorhead, Inverness,  
225 Indianola 2 West and Indianola 2 East Precincts; and

226 ( \* \* \*ii) Washington County: Arcola \* \* \*  
227 Technology Center\*, Hollandale City Hall \* \* \* and Darlove Baptist  
228 Church\* \* \* \*.

229 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following  
230 precincts in Washington County: Arcola Technology Center\*, St.  
231 James Episcopal Church\*, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan  
232 Health Clinic, \* \* \* Elks Club\*, Ward's Recreation Center, Buster  
233 Brown Community Center, \* \* \* Covenant Presbyterian, Jakes Chapel  
234 M.B. Church\*, Brent Center, \* \* \* Tampa Drive and \* \* \* Washington  
235 County Convention Center Precincts.

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

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

241 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be  
242 composed of the following counties:

243 (a) Holmes County;

244 (b) Humphreys County;

245 ( \* \* \*c) Leflore County;

246 ( \* \* \*d) Sunflower County; and

247 ( \* \* \*e) Washington County.



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

(a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of \* \* \* Washington and Sunflower Counties.

(b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of \* \* \* Leflore, Holmes and Humphreys Counties.

\* \* \*

**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. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the Fourth Circuit Court District. \* \* \* Two (2) circuit judges shall be elected from each subdistrict. The judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated only as "Subdistrict 4-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 4-1, Place Two", "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Three" and "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Four".

**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:



- 273 (a) Attala County;  
274 (b) Carroll County;  
275 (c) Choctaw County;  
276 (d) Grenada County;  
277 (e) Montgomery County;  
278 (f) Webster County; and  
279 (g) Winston County.

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

282 9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth  
283 Circuit Court District.

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

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

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

290 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is  
291 composed of the following counties:

- 292 (a) Adams County;  
293 (b) Amite County;  
294 (c) Franklin County; and  
295 (d) Wilkinson County.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- 324           (a) Adams County;  
325           (b) Amite County;  
326           (c) Franklin County; \* \* \*  
327           (d) Pike County; and  
328           ( \* \* \*e) Wilkinson County.

329           (2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided  
330 into \* \* \* three (3) subdistricts as follows:

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

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

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

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

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



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

(c) Subdistrict 6-3 shall consist of Pike County.

(3) 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.

**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,



371 49\*, 50, 51\*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58\*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63\*,  
372 64\*, \* \* \* 67, 68, 69, 70\*, 71, 86 \* \* \* and 89 \* \* \*.

373 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following  
374 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram  
375 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,  
376 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,  
377 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,  
378 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

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

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

384 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be  
385 Claiborne, Hinds \* \* \* and Jefferson County.

386 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided  
387 into \* \* \* six (6) subdistricts \* \* \* as follows:

388 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following  
389 precincts in Hinds County: \* \* \* 32\*, \* \* \* 44, 45, 46, 47\*, 72,  
390 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.

391 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following  
392 precincts in Hinds County: 11\*, 12\*, 13\*, \* \* \* 16\*, \* \* \* 23,  
393 27, 28, 29, 30, \* \* \* 38, 39\*, 40, 41, 42\*, 43\*, 80, 81, 82, 83,  
394 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.





395 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following  
396 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,  
397 49\*, 50, 51\*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58\*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63\*,  
398 64\*, \* \* \* 67, 68, 69, 70\*, 71, 86 \* \* \* and 89 \* \* \*.

399 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following  
400 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram  
401 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,  
402 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,  
403 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,  
404 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

405 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of Claiborne and  
406 Jefferson County.

407 (f) Subdistrict 7-6 shall consist of all precincts  
408 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement  
409 District as the lines are described in Section 29-5-203 on July 1,  
410 2025.

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

413 9-7-23. \* \* \* The Seventh Circuit Court District \* \* \* is  
414 composed of the following counties:

415 (a) Claiborne County;

416 (b) Hinds County; and

417 (c) Jefferson County.

418 \* \* \*



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

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

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

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

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

9-7-25. \* \* \* There shall be \* \* \* six (6) circuit judges for the Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be separate and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

\* \* \*

**[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.



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

(a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County;

(b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and Jefferson Counties; and

(c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of all precincts located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District as described in Section 29-5-203.

(3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1. The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four". For subdistricts 7-2 and 7-3, one (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

**[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.

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

(a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County; and

(b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and Jefferson Counties.



(3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1.  
The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct  
and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as  
"Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two",  
"Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four".  
One (1) judge shall be elected from subdistrict 7-2.

**SECTION 16.** 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 17.** 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;



494 (b) Sharkey County; and

495 (c) Warren County.

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

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

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

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

510 9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of  
511 the following counties:

512 (a) Issaquena County;

513 (b) Sharkey County;

514 (c) Warren County; and

515 (d) Yazoo County.

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



(a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County and Sharkey County, and the following precincts in the following counties:

(i) Warren County: American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove, Cherry Street, Jett, Kings, Number 7 Fire Station and St. Aloysius; and

(ii) Yazoo County: 3-1 West, 3-2 East, 3-3 Jonestown, Holly Bluff, Lake City, Ward 4, and Ward 5.

(b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of:

(i) The following precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store, Beechwood, Bovina, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Lee Road, Moose Lodge, Oakland, Plumbers Hall, Redwood, Tingleville, YMCA and Yokena; and

(ii) The following precincts in Yazoo County: 3-4 South, Benton, Carter, Center Ridge, Deasonville, District 4 Ward 2, Dover, East Bentonia, East Midway, Eden, Fairview, Free Run, Fugates, Harttown, Mechanicsburg, Robinette, Satartia, Tinsley, Valley, Ward 2, West Bentonia, West Midway and Zion.

**SECTION 18.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

**[Until January 1, 2027, 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;



543 (c) Lauderdale County; and

544 (d) Wayne County.

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

547 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the  
548 following counties:

549 (a) Clarke County;

550 (b) Kemper County; and

551 (c) Lauderdale County \* \* \*.

552 \* \* \*

553 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
554 brought forward as follows:

555 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth  
556 Circuit Court District.

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

560 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
561 amended as follows:

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

563 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed  
564 of the following counties:

565 (a) Bolivar County;

566 (b) Coahoma County;

567 (c) Quitman County; and



568 (d) Tunica County.

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

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

573 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle\*,  
574 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland\*, East  
575 Cleveland\*, East Rosedale, \* \* \* Longshot, North Cleveland,  
576 Northwest Cleveland\*, Pace\*, Round Lake Gunnison Deeson, Scott,  
577 Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland\*, Stringtown, West Central Cleveland,  
578 West Cleveland and West Rosedale; and

579 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo\*, Clarksdale 2 \* \* \*\*,  
580 Clarksdale 5 \* \* \*\*, Farrell\* \* \* \* and Rena Lara \* \* \*.

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

583 (i) Bolivar County: Boyle\*, Cleveland Eastgate,  
584 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland\*, East Cleveland\*,  
585 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland\*, Pace\*, Renova, Round  
586 Lake Gunnison Deeson\*, Shelby, \* \* \* and Winstonville;

587 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo\*, Cagle Crossing,  
588 Clarksdale \* \* \* 3, Clarksdale \* \* \* 4, Clarksdale \* \* \* 4 North,  
589 Clarksdale \* \* \* 5\*, Clarksdale \* \* \* Courthouse\*, Dublin \* \* \* ,  
590 Roundaway and Sasse St. Fire Station; and

591 (iii) Quitman County: \* \* \* Crowder\*,  
592 Lambert, \* \* \* Southwest Marks\* and West Lambert.





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

595 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale \* \* \* 2\*,  
596 Clarksdale \* \* \* 5\*, \* \* \* Clarksdale Courthouse\*, Coahoma,  
597 Farrell\*, Friar's Point, Jonestown, Lula \* \* \* and Lyons \* \* \*;  
598 and

599 (ii) Quitman County: \* \* \* Crenshaw, Crowder\*,  
600 Darling, District 3 North, District 3 South \* \* \*, Northwest  
601 Marks, \* \* \* Sledge and Southwest Marks.

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

604 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed  
605 of the following counties:

- 606 (a) Bolivar County;  
607 (b) Coahoma County;  
608 (c) Quitman County; and  
609 (d) Tunica County.

610 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided  
611 into \* \* \* two (2) subdistricts as follows:

612 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of \* \* \* Bolivar  
613 County.

614 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of \* \* \* Coahoma,  
615 Quitman and Tunica Counties.

616 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
617 brought forward as follows:



618           9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh  
619 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each  
620 subdistrict.

621           **SECTION 22.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
622 amended as follows:

623           9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District is composed  
624 of the following counties:

625                   (a) Forrest County; and

626                   (b) Perry County.

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

631           **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
632 amended as follows:

633           9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is  
634 composed of the following counties:

635                   (a) Covington County;

636                   (b) Jasper County;

637                   (c) Simpson County; and

638                   (d) Smith County.

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



SECTION 24. Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) \* \* \* Copiah County;
- (b) \* \* \* Jefferson Davis County; \* \* \*
- (c) \* \* \* Lawrence County \* \* \*; and
- (d) Lincoln County.

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



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

669 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
670 amended as follows:

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

672 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is  
673 composed of the following counties:

- 674 (a) Jefferson Davis County;  
675 (b) Lamar County;  
676 (c) Lawrence County;  
677 (d) Marion County; and  
678 (e) Pearl River County.

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

681 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is composed of  
682 the following counties:

683 \* \* \*

684 ( \* \* \*a) Lamar County;

685 \* \* \*

686 ( \* \* \*b) Marion County; \* \* \*

687 ( \* \* \*c) Pearl River County \* \* \*; and

688 (d) Walthall County.

689 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
690 amended as follows:



**[Until 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 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 \* \* \* shall be a resident of \* \* \* Lamar \* \* \* County. The judge to fill Place Two \* \* \* shall be a resident of \* \* \* a county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three \* \* \* shall be a resident of Pearl River County.

**SECTION 27.** 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:



- 716 (a) Clay County;  
717 (b) Lowndes County;  
718 (c) Noxubee County; and  
719 (d) Oktibbeha County.

720 **SECTION 28.** Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
721 amended as follows:

722 9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the  
723 Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

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

733 **SECTION 29.** Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
734 brought forward as follows:

735 9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be  
736 composed of the following counties:

- 737 (a) Panola County;  
738 (b) Tallahatchie County;  
739 (c) Tate County; and  
740 (d) Yalobusha County.



741           **SECTION 30.** Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
742 amended as follows:

743           9-7-46. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the  
744 Seventeenth Circuit Court District.

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

748           **SECTION 31.** Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
749 amended as follows:

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

751           9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones  
752 County.

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

755           9-7-47. (1) The Eighteenth Circuit Court District \* \* \* is  
756 composed of the following counties:

757                   (a) George County;

758                   (b) Greene County;

759                   (c) Jones County; and

760                   (d) Wayne County.

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



shall be a resident of Jones County. The judge to fill Place Two shall be a resident of George, Greene or Wayne County.

**SECTION 32.** 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. \* \* \* The Nineteenth Circuit Court District \* \* \* shall be composed of \* \* \* Jackson County.

\* \* \*

**SECTION 33.** 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. (1) There shall be \* \* \* four (4) judges for the Nineteenth Circuit Court District. 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" with one of the four (4) places, to be dedicated to intervention court and to have at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the cases on its docket drug court eligible cases.

(2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court District may divide the court \* \* \* into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the court. The senior judge shall designate which place is to operate as intervention court and assign the court's cases accordingly to ensure its operation.



814           **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
815 brought forward as follows:

816           9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District is composed of  
817 the following counties:

818                   (a) Madison County; and

819                   (b) Rankin County.

820           **SECTION 35.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
821 amended as follows:

822           9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the  
823 Twentieth Circuit Court District.

824           (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct  
825 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as  
826 "Place One \* \* \*", "Place Two", and "Place Three \* \* \*". The  
827 judge to fill Place One must reside in Rankin County, the judge to  
828 fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to  
829 fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

830           **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
831 amended as follows:

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

833           9-7-55. The \* \* \* Twenty-second Circuit Court District is  
834 composed of the following counties:

835                   (a) Holmes County;

836                   (b) Humphreys County; and

837                   (c) Yazoo County.



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

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

**SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION 38.** Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-7-63. The \* \* \* Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be composed of DeSoto County.

**SECTION 39.** Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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



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

(2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the \* \* \* three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated as "Place One" \* \* \*, "Place Two \* \* \*" and "Place Three". The judges to fill Place One, Place Two and Place Three shall be residents of DeSoto County.

**[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as 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 Three shall be elected from within the district. Place Four shall be a subdistrict denominated as 21-1. The judge to fill Place Four shall 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 40.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended forward as follows:



886           25-31-5.   (1)   The following number of full-time legal  
887 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court  
888 districts:

889           (a)   First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)  
890 legal assistants.

891           (b)   Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)  
892 legal assistants.

893           (c)   Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)  
894 legal assistants.

895           (d)   Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)  
896 legal assistants.

897           (e)   Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)  
898 legal assistants.

899           (f)   Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)  
900 legal assistants.

901           (g)   Seventh Circuit Court District..... \* \* \*  
902 fourteen (14) legal assistants.   \* \* \*

903           (h)   Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)  
904 legal assistants.

905           (i)   Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)  
906 legal assistants.   Effective January 1, 2027, the Ninth Circuit  
907 Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants.

908           (j)   Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)  
909 legal assistants.



910                   (k)   Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)  
911   legal assistants.

912                   (l)   Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)  
913   legal assistants.

914                   (m)   Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)  
915   legal assistants.

916                   (n)   Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... \* \* \*  
917   five (5) legal assistants.

918                   (o)   Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)  
919   legal assistants.

920                   (p)   Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)  
921   legal assistants.

922                   (q)   Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
923   legal assistants.

924                   (r)   Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
925   legal assistants.   Effective January 1, 2027, the Eighteenth  
926   Circuit Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants.

927                   (s)   Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)  
928   legal assistants.

929                   (t)   Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)  
930   legal assistants.   Effective January 1, 2027, the Twentieth  
931   Circuit Court District shall have ten (10) legal assistants.

932                   (u)   Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)  
933   legal assistants.   Effective January 1, 2027, the Twenty-first  
934   Circuit Court District shall have seven (7) legal assistants.



935           (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)  
936 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Twenty-second  
937 Circuit Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants. From  
938 and after January 1, 2031, this paragraph (v) shall stand  
939 repealed.

940           (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District ..... five (5)  
941 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, this paragraph (w)  
942 shall stand repealed.

943           (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant  
944 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of  
945 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following  
946 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the  
947 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe  
948 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following  
949 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one  
950 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a  
951 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses  
952 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such  
953 district pursuant to this subsection:

954           (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
955 legal assistants.

956           (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
957 legal assistants.

958           (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
959 legal assistants.



960                   (d)   Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
961   legal assistants.  
962                   (e)   Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
963   legal assistants.  
964                   (f)   Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
965   legal assistants.  
966                   (g)   Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
967   legal assistants.  
968                   (h)   Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
969   legal assistants.  
970                   (i)   Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
971   legal assistants.  
972                   (j)   Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
973   legal assistants.  
974                   (k)   Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
975   legal assistants.  
976                   (l)   Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
977   legal assistants.  
978                   (m)   Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
979   legal assistants.  
980                   (n)   Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
981   legal assistants.  
982                   (o)   Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
983   legal assistants.





984           (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
985 legal assistants.

986           (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
987 legal assistants.

988           (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
989 legal assistants.

990           (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
991 legal assistants.

992           (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... \* \* \*  
993 five (5) legal assistants.

994           (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
995 legal assistants.

996           (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
997 legal assistants. From and after January 1, 2031, this paragraph  
998 (v) shall stand repealed.

999           (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)  
1000 legal assistants. From and after January 1, 2027, this paragraph  
1001 (w) shall stand repealed.

1002           (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a  
1003 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits  
1004 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the  
1005 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to  
1006 this section.

1007           (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may  
1008 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or



1009 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal  
1010 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators  
1011 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the  
1012 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any  
1013 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated  
1014 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a  
1015 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,  
1016 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal  
1017 Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be  
1018 expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of  
1019 the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the  
1020 positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney  
1021 accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department  
1022 of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate  
1023 counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds  
1024 shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as  
1025 state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal  
1026 assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of  
1027 supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district  
1028 the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and  
1029 fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the  
1030 same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such  
1031 information to the Department of Finance and Administration which  
1032 shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget  
1033 Office.



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

**SECTION 41.** Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

**[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read 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-third 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-first 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.



1059           (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties  
1060 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than  
1061 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be  
1062 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon  
1063 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal  
1064 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid  
1065 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary  
1066 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law  
1067 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other  
1068 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal  
1069 assistant to a district attorney.

1070           (7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the  
1071 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training  
1072 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses  
1073 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law  
1074 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the  
1075 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

1076           (8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the  
1077 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of  
1078 funding for such criminal investigators.

1079           **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**  
1080 **follows:]**

1081           25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time  
1082 criminal investigator.



1083           (2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth,  
1084 Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,  
1085 Seventeenth, and Twentieth \* \* \* Circuit Court Districts may  
1086 appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for a  
1087 total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

1088           (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,  
1089 Fourth \* \* \*, Nineteenth and \* \* \* Twenty-first Circuit Court  
1090 Districts may appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal  
1091 investigators for a total of three (3) full-time criminal  
1092 investigators.

1093           (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court  
1094 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal  
1095 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal  
1096 investigators.

1097           (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney  
1098 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any  
1099 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1100           (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties  
1101 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than  
1102 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be  
1103 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon  
1104 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal  
1105 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid  
1106 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary  
1107 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law



1108 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other  
1109 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal  
1110 assistant to a district attorney.

1111 (7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the  
1112 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training  
1113 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses  
1114 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law  
1115 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the  
1116 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

1117 (8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the  
1118 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of  
1119 funding for such criminal investigators.

1120 **SECTION 42.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1121 brought forward as follows:

1122 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal  
1123 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,  
1124 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state  
1125 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior  
1126 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to  
1127 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a  
1128 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be  
1129 a state employee.

1130 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court  
1131 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance  
1132 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit



1133 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,  
1134 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,  
1135 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior  
1136 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two  
1137 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1138 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to  
1139 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a  
1140 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians  
1141 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance  
1142 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement  
1143 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in  
1144 fulfilling that duty.

1145 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall  
1146 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in  
1147 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties  
1148 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a  
1149 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit  
1150 court judge.

1151 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the  
1152 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge  
1153 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any  
1154 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of  
1155 this section, create the position of county victim assistance  
1156 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator  
1157 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the



1158 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a  
1159 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted  
1160 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their  
1161 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon  
1162 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district  
1163 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and  
1164 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve  
1165 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing  
1166 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of  
1167 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the  
1168 municipality.

1169 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or  
1170 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is  
1171 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance  
1172 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and  
1173 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes  
1174 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued  
1175 operation of the victim assistance program.

1176 **SECTION 43.** (1) (a) A special election shall be held to  
1177 fill the office of circuit judge created in Subdistrict 7-5 in the  
1178 Seventh Circuit Court District. The special election shall be  
1179 held on the first Tuesday in November, 2025. Candidates shall  
1180 file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and shall run for office  
1181 and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through  
1182 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act.





1183 The judge elected shall serve until January 1, 2027, unless such  
1184 person is re-elected to fill the office during the November, 2026,  
1185 election for judicial offices. The terms of those offices shall  
1186 thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges generally.

1187 (b) A special election shall be held to fill the office  
1188 of circuit judge for the Twenty-first Circuit Court District. The  
1189 special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in November,  
1190 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and  
1191 shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections  
1192 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan  
1193 Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve until January  
1194 1, 2027, unless the person is re-elected to fill such office in the  
1195 November, 2026, election for judicial offices. The terms of those  
1196 offices shall thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges  
1197 generally.

1198 (2) Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit  
1199 judgeships that begin January 1, 2027, shall run for those offices  
1200 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in  
1201 November 2026. Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit  
1202 judgeships that begin January 1, 2031, shall run for those offices  
1203 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in  
1204 November 2030. Candidates shall file as provided in Section  
1205 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in  
1206 Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the  
1207 Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judges elected shall serve



four-year terms to begin January 1, 2027, and/or January 1, 2031, as applicable and the terms of those offices shall thereafter be as provided for chancellors and circuit judges generally.

(3) (a) From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2028, the District Attorney for the Twenty-third District shall become the Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Seventh Circuit Court District. In addition to the responsibilities of the District Attorney as otherwise provided by law, the Chief Assistant District Attorney shall be responsible for ensuring the orderly transition of all administrative and prosecutorial functions of the former Twenty-third Circuit Court District. The salary of the Chief Assistant District Attorney shall be the same as the District Attorney for the Seventh Circuit Court District.

(b) The term of office for the District Attorney for the Twenty-second Circuit Court District elected in the November 2027, general election for statewide officers shall be three (3) years, beginning January 1, 2028, and ending January 1, 2031, upon the dissolution of the Twenty-second Circuit Court District.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary regarding the residency requirements for the Office of District Attorney, the person serving as district attorney for any circuit court district in which the composition of the counties within the district is changed by virtue of this act, shall remain the district attorney for the same numerical district that he or she represented before the revision of the district by virtue of



1233 this act. Such person shall serve as district attorney until the  
1234 next general election for the Office of District Attorney occurs,  
1235 at which time, he or she may qualify as a candidate for the  
1236 judicial district for which he or she otherwise meets the  
1237 residency requirements and all other statutory requirements to  
1238 qualify for such office. For purposes of this section, the phrase  
1239 "next general election" means the general election that occurs  
1240 immediately after the effective date of a revision to the  
1241 composition.

1242       **SECTION 44.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1243 and after its passage.

