

By: Senator(s) Williams

To: Elections

## SENATE BILL NO. 2632

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ELECTIONS FOR SHERIFFS SHALL BE  
2 NONPARTISAN; TO PROVIDE HOW CANDIDATES FOR SHERIFFS SHALL FILE  
3 THEIR INTENT TO RUN FOR OFFICE AND PAY ASSOCIATED FEES; TO PROVIDE  
4 PROCEDURES FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION IN THE EVENT THAT SUCH AN  
5 ELECTION IS NEEDED; TO AMEND SECTIONS 19-25-3, 23-15-153,  
6 23-15-291, 23-15-297 AND 23-15-911, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
7 CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The office of sheriff is nonpartisan, and a  
10 candidate for election to the office is prohibited from  
11 campaigning or qualifying for the office based on party  
12 affiliation. To ensure that campaigns for the nonpartisan office  
13 of sheriff remain nonpartisan and without any connection to a  
14 political party, political parties and any committee or political  
15 committee affiliated with a political party shall not engage in  
16 fundraising on behalf of a candidate or officeholder of the  
17 nonpartisan office of sheriff, and a political party or any  
18 committee or political committee affiliated with a political party  
19 shall not make any contribution to a candidate for the nonpartisan  
20 office of sheriff or the political committee of a candidate for



21 the nonpartisan office of sheriff. A political party or any  
22 committee or political committee affiliated with a political party  
23 shall not publicly endorse a candidate for the nonpartisan office  
24 of sheriff. A candidate or the political committee of a candidate  
25 for the nonpartisan office of sheriff shall not accept a  
26 contribution from a political party or any committee or political  
27 committee affiliated with a political party.

28 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this act, the general  
29 laws for election in this state shall apply to and govern  
30 elections for the office of sheriff.

31 **SECTION 2.** (1) All candidates for the office of sheriff  
32 shall file their intent to be a candidate with the proper  
33 officials not later than 5:00 p.m. sixty (60) days before any  
34 general or regular election and pay the proper officials One  
35 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

36 (2) Sheriff candidates shall file their intent to be a  
37 candidate and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to  
38 subsection (1) of this section to the circuit clerk of the county.  
39 The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners of  
40 election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a  
41 candidate and paid the proper assessment to, such clerk, within  
42 two (2) business days.

43 **SECTION 3.** (1) The names of candidates for the office of  
44 sheriff which appear on the ballot at the general election shall



be grouped together on a separate portion of the ballot and clearly identified as nonpartisan.

(2) The names of all candidates for the office of sheriff shall be listed in alphabetical order on any ballot, and no reference to political party affiliation shall appear on any ballot with respect to the nonpartisan office of sheriff or the candidate for the nonpartisan office of sheriff.

(3) The name of an unopposed candidate for sheriff shall be placed on the general election ballot.

**SECTION 4.** If two (2) or more candidates qualify for sheriff, the names of those candidates shall be placed on the general election ballot. If any candidate for sheriff receives a majority of the votes cast for such office in the general election, he or she shall be declared elected. If no candidate for sheriff receives a majority of the votes cast for such office in the general election, the names of the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for such office shall be placed on the ballot for a second election to be held three (3) weeks later in accordance with appropriate procedures followed in other runoff elections.

**SECTION 5.** Section 19-25-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

19-25-3. A person shall not be eligible to the office of sheriff who shall, at the time of the election, be a defaulter to the state, or any county or municipality thereof, or \* \* \* the



70 United States. Any person who is not a qualified elector, or who  
71 denies the existence of a Supreme Being, shall not be eligible to  
72 said office. The office of sheriff shall be nonpartisan, and a  
73 candidate for election to the office is prohibited from  
74 campaigning or qualifying for the office based on party  
75 affiliation. A sheriff shall be eligible to immediately succeed  
76 himself or herself in office.

77 Prior to taking the oath of office and entering into the  
78 performance of the duties and obligations of sheriff, or as soon  
79 after his or her election as possible, each sheriff-elect,  
80 excluding those who have previously served as sheriff, or have had  
81 at least five (5) years' experience as a full-time enforcement  
82 officer, or have previously successfully completed a course of  
83 training at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training  
84 Academy or the Jackson Police Academy, shall, at the expense of  
85 the county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the  
86 field of law enforcement at the Mississippi Law Enforcement  
87 Officers' Training Academy. Any sheriff exempted from attendance  
88 because of previous service as sheriff or having five (5) years'  
89 full-time law enforcement experience must have served as sheriff  
90 or obtained such experience within a period of ten (10) years  
91 prior to the date of his or her taking the oath of office. Any  
92 sheriff exempted from attendance because of successful completion  
93 of a course of training at either of the aforementioned academies  
94 must have completed such course within five (5) years prior to the



95 date of his or her taking the oath of office. No sheriff,  
96 excluding those specified as being exempt from the initial course  
97 in this section, shall until he or she has attended said academy  
98 be entitled to payment of salary after the first one (1) year in  
99 office if he or she fails to attend said academy as herein  
100 provided within one (1) year after his or her taking office. All  
101 sheriffs shall, on a periodic basis, attend additional advanced  
102 courses in law enforcement in order that they will be properly  
103 informed and trained in the modern, technical advances of law  
104 enforcement.

105 Prior to July 1, 1973, or as soon thereafter as permitted by  
106 vacancies at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training  
107 Academy, either the sheriff or one (1) deputy sheriff in each  
108 county having two (2) or more full-time deputies shall, at the  
109 expense of the county, attend and complete an appropriate  
110 curriculum in the field of narcotics and dangerous drugs at the  
111 Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy. In the  
112 event that a new sheriff is elected who has not previously  
113 received such training or at least one (1) of his or her deputies  
114 has not previously received such training, or if for any other  
115 reason neither the sheriff nor any of the deputy sheriffs in a  
116 county shall have received such training, then the sheriff shall  
117 promptly notify the director of the Mississippi Law Enforcement  
118 Officers' Training Academy and either the sheriff or a deputy  
119 sheriff, as soon thereafter as permitted by vacancies at the



academy, shall, at the expense of the county, attend and complete an appropriate curriculum in the field of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

**SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-153. (1) At least during the following times, the election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been convicted of a disenfranchising crime, failed to comply with the provisions of Section 23-15-152, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any cause, and shall register the names of all persons who have duly applied to be registered but have been illegally denied registration:

(a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January 1987 and every following year;

(b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in the years when members of Congress are elected;

(c) (i) On the first Monday in the month immediately preceding the first primary election for state, state district



legislative, county and county district offices in the years in which those offices are elected; and

(ii) On the first Monday in the month immediately preceding the first county preferential election for nonpartisan offices in the years in which those offices are elected; and

(d) On the second Monday of September preceding the general election or regular special election day in years in which a general election is not conducted.

Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and as provided in Section 23-15-152. Except as otherwise provided by Section 23-15-573, no person shall vote at any election whose name is not in the county voter roll electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System.

(2) Except as provided in this section, and subject to the following annual limitations, the election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in



the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in subsection (1) of this section:

(a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than fifty (50) days per year, with no more than fifteen (15) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than seventy-five (75) days per year, with no more than twenty-five (25) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred (100) days per year, with no more than thirty-five (35) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but





less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred twenty-five (125) days per year, with no more than forty-five (45) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred fifty (150) days per year, with no more than fifty-five (55) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year, with no more than sixty-five (65) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred ninety (190) days per year, with no more than



seventy-five (75) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than two hundred fifteen (115) days per year, with no more than eighty-five (85) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(i) In counties having two hundred fifty thousand (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census but less than two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than two hundred thirty (230) days per year, with no more than ninety-five (95) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

(j) In counties having two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial census or more, not more than two hundred forty (240) days per year, with no more than one hundred five (105) additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year.

(3) In addition to the number of days authorized in subsection (2) of this section, the board of supervisors of a county may authorize, in its discretion, the election



commissioners to receive a per diem in the amount provided for in subsection (2) of this section, to be paid from the county general fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in subsection (1) of this section, not to exceed five (5) days.

(4) (a) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed ten (10) days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System before any special election. For purposes of this paragraph, the regular special election day shall not be considered a special election. The annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to this paragraph.

(b) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-five Dollars (\$165.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for the



performance of their duties on the day of any primary, runoff, general or special election. The annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section shall apply to this paragraph.

(5) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed fourteen (14) days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System and in the conduct of a runoff election following either a general or special election.

(6) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive only one (1) per diem payment for those days when the election commissioners discharge more than one (1) duty or responsibility on the same day.

(7) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed five (5) days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated over two (2) or more days for those days when the election commissioners shall be required to conduct an audit of an election as provided in Section 23-15-615.

(8) In preparation for a municipal primary, runoff, general or special election, the county registrar shall generate and



293 distribute the master voter roll and pollbooks from the Statewide  
294 Elections Management System for the municipality located within  
295 the county. The municipality shall pay the county registrar for  
296 the actual cost of preparing and printing the municipal master  
297 voter roll pollbooks. A municipality may secure "read only"  
298 access to the Statewide Elections Management System and print its  
299 own pollbooks using this information.

300 (9) County election commissioners who perform the duties of  
301 an executive committee with regard to the conduct of a primary  
302 election under a written agreement authorized by law to be entered  
303 into with an executive committee shall receive per diem as  
304 provided for in subsection (2) of this section. The days that  
305 county election commissioners are employed in the conduct of a  
306 primary election shall be treated the same as days county election  
307 commissioners are employed in the conduct of other elections.

308 (10) In addition to any per diem authorized by this section,  
309 any election commissioner shall be entitled to the mileage  
310 reimbursement rate allowable to federal employees for the use of a  
311 privately owned vehicle while on official travel on election day.

312 (11) Every election commissioner shall sign personally a  
313 certification setting forth the number of hours actually worked in  
314 the performance of the commissioner's official duties and for  
315 which the commissioner seeks compensation. The certification must  
316 be on a form as prescribed in this subsection. The commissioner's



317 signature is, as a matter of law, made under the commissioner's  
318 oath of office and under penalties of perjury.

319 The certification form shall be as follows:

320 **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

321 **PER DIEM CLAIM FORM**

322 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

323 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

324 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

325 PURPOSE APPLICABLE ACTUAL PER DIEM

326 DATE BEGINNING ENDING OF MS CODE HOURS DAYS

327 WORKED TIME TIME WORK SECTION WORKED EARNED

328 \_\_\_\_\_

329 \_\_\_\_\_

330 \_\_\_\_\_

331 TOTAL NUMBER OF PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

332 EXCLUDING ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_

333 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$110.00

334 TOTAL NUMBER PER DIEM DAYS EARNED

335 FOR ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_

336 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$165.00

337 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PER DIEM CLAIMED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

338 I understand that I am signing this document under my oath as  
339 an election commissioner and under penalties of perjury.



I understand that I am requesting payment from taxpayer funds and that I have an obligation to be specific and truthful as to the amount of hours worked and the compensation I am requesting.

Signed this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner's Signature

When properly completed and signed, the certification must be filed with the clerk of the county board of supervisors before any payment may be made. The certification will be a public record available for inspection and reproduction immediately upon the oral or written request of any person.

Any person may contest the accuracy of the certification in any respect by notifying the chair of the commission, any member of the board of supervisors or the clerk of the board of supervisors of the contest at any time before or after payment is made. If the contest is made before payment is made, no payment shall be made as to the contested certificate until the contest is finally disposed of. The person filing the contest shall be entitled to a full hearing, and the clerk of the board of supervisors shall issue subpoenas upon request of the contestor compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents and things. The contestor shall have the right to appeal de novo to the circuit court of the involved county, which appeal must be perfected within thirty (30) days from a final decision of the



commission, the clerk of the board of supervisors or the board of supervisors, as the case may be.

Any contestor who successfully contests any certification will be awarded all expenses incident to his or her contest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, which will be awarded upon petition to the chancery court of the involved county upon final disposition of the contest before the election commission, board of supervisors, clerk of the board of supervisors, or, in case of an appeal, final disposition by the court. The commissioner against whom the contest is decided shall be liable for the payment of the expenses and attorney's fees, and the county shall be jointly and severally liable for same.

(12) Any election commissioner who has not received a certificate issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 23-15-211 indicating that the election commissioner has received the required elections seminar instruction and that the election commissioner is fully qualified to conduct an election, shall not receive any compensation authorized by this section or Section 23-15-239.

**SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-291, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-291. Except as provided by Section 1 of this act or any other provision of law that explicitly states the contrary, all nominations for state, district, county and county district officers made by the different parties of this state shall be made





by primary elections. All primary elections shall be governed and regulated by the election laws of the state in force at the time the primary election is held.

**SECTION 8.** Section 23-15-297, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-297. (1) All candidates, upon entering the race for party nominations for office, shall first pay to the proper officer as provided for in Section 23-15-299 for each primary election the following amounts:

(a) Candidates for Governor, the amount determined by the state executive committee of the party pursuant to subsection (2) of this section but no less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and no more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00).

(b) Candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, State Highway Commissioner and State Public Service Commissioner, the amount determined by the state executive committee of the party pursuant to subsection (2) of this section but no less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and no more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

(c) Candidates for State Senator and State Representative, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

(d) Candidates for district attorney, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).



414 (e) Candidates for \* \* \* chancery clerk, circuit clerk,  
415 tax assessor, tax collector, county attorney, county  
416 superintendent of education and board of supervisors, One Hundred  
417 Dollars (\$100.00).

418 (f) Candidates for county surveyor, county coroner and  
419 constable, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

420 (g) Candidates for United States Senator, the amount  
421 determined by the state executive committee of the party pursuant  
422 to subsection (2) of this section but no less than One Thousand  
423 Dollars (\$1,000.00) and no more than Five Thousand Dollars  
424 (\$5,000.00).

425 (h) Candidates for United States Representative, the  
426 amount determined by the state executive committee of the party  
427 pursuant to subsection (2) of this section but no less than Five  
428 Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and no more than Two Thousand Five  
429 Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00).

430 (2) (a) The state executive committee of a political party  
431 shall set the entry fee that a candidate is to pay upon entering  
432 the race for party nominations for the offices listed in  
433 paragraphs (a), (b), (g) and (h) of subsection (1) of this section  
434 and Section 23-15-1093(2) (a). The authority granted under this  
435 subsection shall not be exercised by any state executive committee  
436 of a political party for any individual office more than once  
437 every two (2) years, beginning July 1, 2022.



438           (b) Each state executive committee of a political party  
439 shall report the entry fee determined for each office to the  
440 Secretary of State by October 1 of the year before the election is  
441 held for that office. If a state executive committee does not  
442 meet the deadline in this paragraph for any office, the minimum  
443 entry fee shall be assessed for the office in that party's primary  
444 election during that election cycle.

445           (3) All independent candidates and special election  
446 candidates entering the race for office shall pay to the proper  
447 officer as provided for in Section 23-15-299 the following  
448 amounts:

449           (a) Candidates for Governor, One Thousand Dollars  
450 (\$1,000.00).

451           (b) Candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney  
452 General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public  
453 Accounts, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture  
454 and Commerce, State Highway Commissioner and State Public Service  
455 Commissioner, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

456           (c) Candidates for district attorney, State Senator and  
457 State Representative, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

458           (d) Candidates for sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit  
459 clerk, tax assessor, tax collector, county attorney, county  
460 superintendent of education and board of supervisors, One Hundred  
461 Dollars (\$100.00).



(e) Candidates for county surveyor, county coroner and constable, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

(f) Candidates for United States Senator, One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

(g) Candidates for United States Representative, Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

(4) The Secretary of State shall publish the fees listed in this section and Section 23-15-1093 no later than forty-five (45) days before the qualifying period begins for each office.

**SECTION 9.** Section 23-15-911, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-911. (1) (a) When the returns for a box and the contents of the ballot box and the conduct of the election have been canvassed and reviewed by the county election commission in the case of general and preferential elections or the county executive committee in the case of primary elections, all the contents of the box required to be placed and sealed in the ballot box by the poll managers shall be replaced therein by the election commission or executive committee, as the case may be, and the box shall be forthwith resealed and delivered to the circuit clerk, who shall safely keep and secure the same against any tampering. At any time within twelve (12) days after the canvass and examination of the box and its contents by the election commission or executive committee, as the case may be, any candidate or his or her representative authorized in writing by him or her shall



487 have the right of full examination of the box and its contents  
488 upon three (3) days' notice of his or her application therefor  
489 served upon the opposing candidates. The service of notice shall  
490 be provided to each opposing candidate by delivering a copy  
491 personally to each candidate, or by performing two (2) of the  
492 following:

493 (i) By leaving a copy at each candidate's usual  
494 place of residence with a family member, who shall be no less than  
495 sixteen (16) years of age and, who resides in the candidate's  
496 residence;

497 (ii) By email or other electronic means, with  
498 receipt deemed upon transmission; or

499 (iii) By mailing a copy of the notice by  
500 registered or certified mail that is addressed to each opposing  
501 candidate at that candidate's residence with receipt deemed  
502 mailing.

503 (b) If service of notice cannot be made to any opposing  
504 candidate, then notice may be posted on the door of each  
505 candidate's usual place of abode. If any candidate's usual place  
506 of residence is a multifamily dwelling, a copy of the notice must  
507 be mailed to the candidate or candidates by United States  
508 first-class mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.  
509 Proof of service of notice upon any opposing candidate shall be  
510 made to the circuit clerk within three (3) days before a full  
511 examination of the ballot box may be conducted.



512 (c) The examination shall be conducted in the presence  
513 of the circuit clerk or his or her deputy who shall be charged  
514 with the duty to see that none of the contents of the box are  
515 removed from the presence of the clerk or in any way tampered  
516 with. Upon the completion of the examination the box shall be  
517 resealed with all its original contents inside. And if any  
518 contest or complaint before the court shall arise over the box, it  
519 shall be kept intact and sealed until the court hearing and  
520 another ballot box, if necessary, shall be furnished for the  
521 precinct involved.

522 (2) The provisions of this section allowing the examination  
523 of ballot boxes shall apply in the case of an election contest  
524 regarding the seat of a member of the State Legislature. In such  
525 a case, the results of the examination shall be reported by the  
526 applicable circuit clerk to the Clerk of the House of  
527 Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate, as the case may  
528 be.

529 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
530 and after July 1, 2025.

