

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Simmons (12th)

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2646

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT; TO
2 PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO WAS DISQUALIFIED AS AN ELECTOR FOR
3 COMMISSION OF CERTAIN CRIMES SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE RESTORED
4 AUTOMATICALLY UPON COMPLETION OF THE SENTENCE AND FOLLOWING A
5 TWO-YEAR WAITING PERIOD; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-11, MISSISSIPPI
6 CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
9 as the "Restoration of Voting Rights Act."

10 (2) (a) Except as provided by Section 99-19-37, any person
11 who has lost the right of suffrage under Section 241 of the
12 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or under any statute enacted by
13 the Legislature under Section 244A of the Mississippi Constitution
14 of 1890, shall automatically be restored suffrage only when that
15 person has fully completed all terms of prison, parole, probation
16 or supervision and has remained crime- and arrest-free in the
17 two-year period following the full completion of sentence and any
18 term of prison, parole, probation or supervision. At that time
19 the person's right to vote shall be restored by operation of law
20 as though an act had been passed by the Legislature in accordance



21 with Section 253 of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 restoring
22 the right of suffrage to the person.

23 (b) If a person whose suffrage has been restored under
24 this act shall appear in the registrar's office to register as a
25 qualified elector, the person's name shall be entered on the
26 pollbooks if the person is otherwise a qualified elector.

27 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
28 amended as follows:

29 23-15-11. (1) Every inhabitant of this state, except
30 persons adjudicated to be non compos mentis, who is a citizen of
31 the United States of America, eighteen (18) years old and upwards,
32 who has resided in this state for thirty (30) days and for thirty
33 (30) days in the county in which he or she seeks to vote, and for
34 thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in which he or
35 she seeks to vote, and who has been duly registered as an elector
36 under Section 23-15-33, and who has never been convicted of vote
37 fraud, or any other crime for which disenfranchisement has been
38 prescribed by the Legislature under Section 244A, Mississippi
39 Constitution of 1890, or of any crime listed in Section 241,
40 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, shall be a qualified elector in
41 and for the county, municipality and voting precinct of his or her
42 residence, and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon
43 compliance with Section 23-15-563. If the thirtieth day to
44 register before an election falls on a Sunday or legal holiday,
45 the registration applications submitted on the business day



46 immediately following the Sunday or legal holiday shall be
47 accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System
48 for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election.
49 Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or older on or
50 before the date of the general election and who is duly registered
51 to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the primary election
52 associated with the general election, may vote in the primary
53 election even though the person has not reached his or her
54 eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote at
55 the primary election. No others than those specified in this
56 section shall be entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any
57 election.

58 (2) If a person convicted of a crime for which
59 disenfranchisement has been prescribed by the Mississippi
60 Constitution of 1890 or by statute has completed all the
61 conditions of the sentence and is eligible to vote under the
62 provisions of Section 1 of this act, the person shall not be
63 disqualified as an elector due to the conviction.

64 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
65 and after July 1, 2025.

