

By: Senator(s) England

To: Elections

## SENATE BILL NO. 2652

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-213, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE STAGGERED TERMS OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS IN  
3 DISTRICTS TWO AND FOUR; TO PROVIDE THAT THOSE ELECTION  
4 COMMISSIONERS FROM DISTRICTS TWO AND FOUR ELECTED IN THE 2027  
5 ELECTION SHALL BE ELECTED FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM; TO PROVIDE THAT  
6 THOSE ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FROM DISTRICTS TWO AND FOUR ELECTED  
7 IN THE 2030 ELECTION SHALL SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM AND EVERY FOUR  
8 YEARS THEREAFTER; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-213, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 **[Until December 31, 2027, this section shall read as**  
13 **follows:]**

14 23-15-213. (1) There shall be elected five (5) election  
15 commissioners for each county whose terms of office shall commence  
16 on the first Monday of January following their election and who  
17 shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Each of the  
18 commissioners shall be required to attend a training seminar  
19 provided by the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a  
20 skills assessment, and before acting, shall take and subscribe the  
21 oath of office prescribed by the Constitution. The oath shall be



22 filed in the office of the clerk of the chancery court. Upon  
23 filing the oath of office, the election commissioner may be  
24 provided access to the Statewide Elections Management System for  
25 the purpose of performing his or her duties. Such skills  
26 assessment shall only be required once every four (4) years.  
27 While engaged in their duties, the commissioners shall be  
28 conservators of the peace in the county, with all the duties and  
29 powers of such.

30 (2) (a) At the general election in 2024 and every four (4)  
31 years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
32 supervisors' Districts One, Three and Five shall elect in their  
33 district one (1) election commissioner.

34 (b) At the general election in \* \* \* 2027, and every  
35 four (4) years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
36 supervisors' Districts Two and Four shall elect in their district  
37 one (1) election commissioner, who shall serve for a term of three  
38 (3) years.

39 (c) No more than one (1) commissioner shall be a  
40 resident of and reside in each supervisor's district of the  
41 county; it being the purpose of this section that the county board  
42 of election commissioners shall consist of one (1) person from  
43 each supervisor's district of the county and that each  
44 commissioner be elected from the supervisor's district in which he  
45 or she resides.



46           (3) Candidates for county election commissioner shall  
47 qualify by filing with the clerk of the board of supervisors of  
48 their respective counties a petition personally signed by not less  
49 than fifty (50) qualified electors of the supervisor's district in  
50 which they reside, requesting that they be a candidate, by 5:00  
51 p.m. not later than February 1 of the year in which the election  
52 occurs and unless the petition is filed within the required time,  
53 their names shall not be placed upon the ballot. All candidates  
54 shall declare in writing their party affiliation, if any, to the  
55 board of supervisors, and such party affiliation shall be shown on  
56 the official ballot.

57           (4) The petition shall have attached thereto a certificate  
58 of the county registrar showing the number of qualified electors  
59 on each petition, which shall be furnished by the registrar on  
60 request. The board shall determine the sufficiency of the  
61 petition, and if the petition contains the required number of  
62 signatures and is filed within the time required, the president of  
63 the board shall verify that the candidate is a resident of the  
64 supervisor's district in which he or she seeks election and that  
65 the candidate is otherwise qualified as provided by law, and shall  
66 certify that the candidate is qualified to the chair or secretary  
67 of the county election commission and the names of the candidates  
68 shall be placed upon the ballot for the ensuing election. No  
69 county election commissioner shall serve or be considered as  
70 elected until he or she has received a majority of the votes cast



71 for the position or post for which he or she is a candidate. If a  
72 majority vote is not received in the first election, then the two  
73 (2) candidates receiving the most votes for each position or post  
74 shall be placed upon the ballot for a second election to be held  
75 four (4) weeks later in accordance with appropriate procedures  
76 followed in other elections involving runoff candidates.

77 (5) In the first meeting in January of each year, the county  
78 election commissioners shall organize by electing a chair and a  
79 secretary, who shall serve a one-year term. The county election  
80 commissioners shall provide the names of the chair and secretary  
81 to the Secretary of State and provide notice of any change in  
82 officers which may occur during the year.

83 (6) It shall be the duty of the chair to have the official  
84 ballot printed and distributed at each general or special  
85 election.

86 **[From and after January 1, 2028, this section shall read as**  
87 **follows:]**

88 23-15-213. (1) There shall be elected five (5) election  
89 commissioners for each county whose terms of office shall commence  
90 on the first Monday of January following their election and who  
91 shall serve for a term of four (4) years. Each of the  
92 commissioners shall be required to attend a training seminar  
93 provided by the Secretary of State and satisfactorily complete a  
94 skills assessment, and before acting, shall take and subscribe the  
95 oath of office prescribed by the Constitution. The oath shall be



96 filed in the office of the clerk of the chancery court. Upon  
97 filing the oath of office, the election commissioner may be  
98 provided access to the Statewide Elections Management System for  
99 the purpose of performing his or her duties. Such skills  
100 assessment shall only be required once every four (4) years.  
101 While engaged in their duties, the commissioners shall be  
102 conservators of the peace in the county, with all the duties and  
103 powers of such.

104 (2) (a) At the general election in 2028 and every four (4)  
105 years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
106 supervisors' Districts One, Three and Five shall elect in their  
107 district one (1) election commissioner.

108 (b) At the general election in 2030 and every four (4)  
109 years thereafter, the qualified electors of the board of  
110 supervisors' Districts Two and Four shall elect in their district  
111 one (1) election commissioner.

112 (c) No more than one (1) commissioner shall be a  
113 resident of and reside in each supervisor's district of the  
114 county; it being the purpose of this section that the county board  
115 of election commissioners shall consist of one (1) person from  
116 each supervisor's district of the county and that each  
117 commissioner be elected from the supervisor's district in which he  
118 or she resides.

119 (3) Candidates for county election commissioner shall  
120 qualify by filing with the clerk of the board of supervisors of



their respective counties a petition personally signed by not less than fifty (50) qualified electors of the supervisor's district in which they reside, requesting that they be a candidate, by 5:00 p.m. not later than February 1 of the year in which the election occurs and unless the petition is filed within the required time, their names shall not be placed upon the ballot. All candidates shall declare in writing their party affiliation, if any, to the board of supervisors, and such party affiliation shall be shown on the official ballot.

(4) The petition shall have attached thereto a certificate of the county registrar showing the number of qualified electors on each petition, which shall be furnished by the registrar on request. The board shall determine the sufficiency of the petition, and if the petition contains the required number of signatures and is filed within the time required, the president of the board shall verify that the candidate is a resident of the supervisor's district in which he or she seeks election and that the candidate is otherwise qualified as provided by law, and shall certify that the candidate is qualified to the chair or secretary of the county election commission and the names of the candidates shall be placed upon the ballot for the ensuing election. No county election commissioner shall serve or be considered as elected until he or she has received a majority of the votes cast for the position or post for which he or she is a candidate. If a majority vote is not received in the first election, then the two



146 (2) candidates receiving the most votes for each position or post  
147 shall be placed upon the ballot for a second election to be held  
148 three (3) weeks later in accordance with appropriate procedures  
149 followed in other elections involving runoff candidates.

150 (5) In the first meeting in January of each year, the county  
151 election commissioners shall organize by electing a chair and a  
152 secretary, who shall serve a one-year term. The county election  
153 commissioners shall provide the names of the chair and secretary  
154 to the Secretary of State and provide notice of any change in  
155 officers which may occur during the year.

156 (6) It shall be the duty of the chair to have the official  
157 ballot printed and distributed at each general or special  
158 election.

159 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
160 and after July 1, 2025.

