

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE NUMBER OF CHANCELLORS FOR THE THIRD CHANCERY COURT  
3 DISTRICT IN THE "FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2027" TIER; TO  
4 CONDITION THE QUALIFYING DEADLINE FOR THE "PLACE THREE"  
5 CHANCELLORSHIP FOR THE THIRD CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT UPON THE  
6 GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977,  
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO  
8 BRING FORWARD SECTION 9-5-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH  
9 PROVIDES THE COUNTY COMPOSITION OF THE THIRD CHANCERY COURT  
10 DISTRICT, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12       **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

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

15       9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the  
16 Third Chancery Court District.

17       (2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected  
18 from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2  
19 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola  
20 County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

21       (b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three  
22 (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The

23 chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as  
24 "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be  
25 denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

28 9-5-13. (1) There shall be \* \* \* three (3) chancellors for  
29 the Third Chancery Court District.

30 (2) For purposes of appointment and election only, the \* \* \*  
31 three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and  
32 denominated as "Place One" \* \* \*, "Place Two \* \* \*" and "Place  
33 Three". The chancellor of Place One must reside in Tate County,  
34 Panola County or Yalobusha County. The chancellor of Place Two  
35 must reside in Carroll County, Grenada County, Montgomery County  
36 or Tallahatchie County. The chancellor of Place Three must reside  
37 in Carroll County, Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola  
38 County, Tallahatchie County, Tate County or Yalobusha County.

39 **SECTION 2.** If this act is approved by the Governor or  
40 becomes law without the Governor's signature by January 23, 2026,  
41 any candidate for the office of chancellor for Place Three of the  
42 Third Chancery Court District in Section 1 of this act that takes  
43 office from and after January 1, 2027, shall file their intent to  
44 be a candidate no later than February 1, 2026, as provided in  
45 Section 23-15-977; however, if this act has not been approved by  
46 the Governor or does not become law without the Governor's  
47 signature by January 23, 2026, any candidate for the office of



48 chancellor for Place Three of the Third Chancery Court District in  
49 Section 1 of this act that takes office from and after January 1,  
50 2027, shall file their intent to be a candidate no later than 5:00  
51 p.m. on May 1, 2026, and qualify as otherwise provided in Section  
52 23-15-977 for candidates for judicial office.

53        Regardless of which qualifying deadline applies, any candidate  
54 for the office of chancellor for Place Three of the Third Chancery  
55 Court District in Section 1 of this act that begins from and after  
56 January 1, 2027, shall run for such office in the November 2026  
57 general election for judicial officers in the same manner as all  
58 other candidates for judicial office.

59        **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
60 amended as follows:

61        23-15-977. (1) Except as otherwise provided \* \* \* by law,  
62 all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section 23-15-975  
63 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a candidate with  
64 the proper officials and pay the proper assessment by not later  
65 than 5:00 p.m. on February 1 of the year in which the general  
66 election for the judicial office is held. If February 1 occurs on  
67 a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, candidates shall file their  
68 intent to be a candidate and pay the proper assessment by 5:00  
69 p.m. on the business day immediately following the Saturday,  
70 Sunday or legal holiday. Candidates shall pay to the proper  
71 officials the following amounts:



72 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court justice and Court of  
73 Appeals judge, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

74 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the  
75 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

76 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,  
77 the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

78 (d) Candidates for justice court judge, the sum of One  
79 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

80 Candidates for judicial office may not file their intent to  
81 be a candidate and pay the proper assessment before January 1 of  
82 the year in which the election for the judicial office is held.



108 (5) If only one (1) person qualifies as a candidate for a  
109 judicial office and that person later dies, resigns or is  
110 otherwise disqualified from holding the judicial office within  
111 seventy (70) days before the date of the general election, the  
112 judicial office shall be considered vacant for the new term and  
113 the vacancy shall be filled as provided in by law.

114 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
115 brought forward as follows:

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

117 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed  
118 of the following counties:

119 (a) DeSoto County;

120 (b) Grenada County:

121 (c) Montgomery County;



122 (d) Panola County;  
123 (e) Tate County; and  
124 (f) Yalobusha County.

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

127 (a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.  
128 (b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County,  
129 Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha  
130 County.

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

133 9-5-11. The Third Chancery Court District is composed of the  
134 following counties:

135 (a) Carroll County;  
136 (b) Grenada County;  
137 (c) Montgomery County;  
138 (d) Panola County;  
139 (e) Tallahatchie County;  
140 (f) Tate County; and  
141 (g) Yalobusha County.

142 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
143 and after its passage.