

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

83 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
84 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
85 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
86 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
87 Election Commissioners.

88 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (c)
89 and (d) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
90 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
91 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk
92 of the proper county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county
93 election commissioners of all persons who have filed their intent
94 to be a candidate with, and paid the proper assessment to, such
95 clerk. The notification shall occur within two (2) business days
96 and shall contain all necessary information.



97 (4) If only one (1) person files his or her intent to be a
98 candidate for a judicial office and that person later dies,
99 resigns or is otherwise disqualified from holding the judicial
100 office after the deadline provided for in subsection (1) of this
101 section but more than seventy (70) days before the date of the
102 general election, the Governor, upon notification of the death,
103 resignation or disqualification of the person, shall issue a
104 proclamation authorizing candidates to file their intent to be a
105 candidate for that judicial office for a period of not less than
106 seven (7) nor more than ten (10) days from the date of the
107 proclamation.

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.

