

By: Representative Horan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REVISE THE JUDICIAL PRECINCTS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT COURT
3 DISTRICT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 9-7-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
4 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT
5 COURT DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
6 TO REVISE THE PRECINCTS FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT FOR
7 THE "FROM JANUARY 1, 2027, UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2031" TIER FOR THE
8 SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 9-7-25,
9 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
10 THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE CONDITIONAL
11 QUALIFYING DEADLINES FOR JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE 4TH AND 7TH
12 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
15 amended as follows:

16 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

17 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
18 composed of the following counties:

19 (a) Leflore County;
20 (b) Sunflower County; and
21 (c) Washington County.

22 (2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
23 four (4) subdistricts as follows:



24 (a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of the following
25 precincts in the following counties:

26 (i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood* Minter
27 City, Money, North Greenwood, Northeast Greenwood, Schlater, West
28 Greenwood, Mississippi Valley State University and Southeast
29 Greenwood Precincts; and

30 (ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
31 Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
32 Ruleville North Precincts.

33 (b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of the following
34 precincts in the following counties:

35 * * *

39 (* * * ii) Washington County: Darlove Baptist
40 Church*, Extension Building, Lake Vista Masonic Lodge, Metcalfe
41 City Hall, Elks Club*, Leland Rotary Club, Leland Health
42 Department Clinic.

43 (c) Subdistrict 4-3 shall consist of the following
44 precincts in the following counties:

45 (i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood*, East
46 Greenwood, Morgan City/Swiftown, North Itta Bena, Rising Sun,
47 Sidon, South Greenwood, South Itta Bena, Southwest Greenwood and
48 West Greenwood*;



52 (* * * iii) Washington County: Arcola Technology
53 Center*, Hollandale City Hall and Darlove Baptist Church*.

54 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
55 precincts in Washington County: Arcola Technology Center*, St.
56 James Episcopal Church*, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan
57 Health Clinic, Elks Club*, Ward's Recreation Center, Buster Brown
58 Community Center, Covenant Presbyterian, Jakes Chapel M.B.
59 Church*, Brent Center, Tampa Drive and Washington County
60 Convention Center Precincts.

61 (3) The local contributions required for the maintenance of
62 the Fourth Circuit Court District shall be paid on a pro rata
63 basis each by Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties.

64 [From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as
65 follows:]

66 9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
67 composed of the following counties:

68 (a) Holmes County;

69 (b) Humphreys County;

70 (c) Leflore County;

71 (d) Sunflower County; and

72 (e) Washington County.



(2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided

into * * * two (2) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of Washington and Counties.

(b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of Leflore, Holmes
and Prentiss Counties.

79 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
80 brought forward as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be
elected from each subdistrict.

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

87 9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the
88 Fourth Circuit Court District. Two (2) circuit judges shall be
89 elected from each subdistrict. The judgeships shall be separate
90 and distinct and denominated only as "Subdistrict 4-1, Place One",
91 "Subdistrict 4-1, Place Two", "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Three" and
92 "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Four".

93 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
94 amended as follows:

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

96 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
97 Hinds County.



98 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
99 four (4) subdistricts in Hinds County as follows:
100 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
101 precincts in Hinds County: 32*, 44, 45, 46, 47*, 72, 73, 74, 75,
102 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.
103 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
104 precincts in Hinds County: 11*, 12*, 13*, 16*, 23, 27, 28, 29,
105 30, 38, 39*, 40, 41, 42*, 43*, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
106 Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.
107 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
108 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
109 49*, 50, 51*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63*,
110 64*, 67, 68, 69, 70*, 71, 86 and 89.
111 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
112 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
113 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,
114 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,
115 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,
116 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.
117 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of all precincts
118 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
119 District as described by Section 29-5-203.
120 **[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section**
121 **shall read as follows:]**



122 9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
123 Claiborne, Hinds and Jefferson County.

124 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
125 six (6) subdistricts as follows:

126 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following
127 precincts in Hinds County: 1, 10, 2, 32 * * *, 33, 34, 35, 36, 4,
128 44, 45, 46, 47 * * *, 6, 8, 9, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92,
129 93, 96 and 97.

130 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following
131 precincts in Hinds County: 11 * * *, 12 * * *, 13 * * *,
132 16 * * *, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39 * * *, 40, 41, 42 * * *,
133 43 * * *, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas
134 and Tinnin.

135 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following
136 precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31,
137 49 * * *, 50, 51 * * *, 52, * * * 54, 55, 56, 57, 58 * * *, 59,
138 60, 61, 62, 63 * * *, 64 * * *, 67, 68, 69, 70 * * *, 71, 86 and
139 89.

140 (d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following
141 precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram
142 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2,
143 Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,
144 Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,
145 Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

146 (e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of Claiborne and
147 Jefferson County.

148 (f) Subdistrict 7-6 shall consist of * * * the
149 following precincts located within the boundaries of the Capitol
150 Complex Improvement District * * *: 1, 10, 11*, 12*, 13*, 14,
151 16*, 17, 2, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39*, 4, 47*, 49*, 50, 51*,
152 58*, 6, 63*, 64*, 70*, 8 and 9.

153 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
154 **follows:]**

155 9-7-23. The Seventh Circuit Court District is composed of
156 the following counties:

157 (a) Claiborne County;
158 (b) Hinds County; and
159 (c) Jefferson County.

160 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
161 brought forward as follows:

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

163 9-7-25. (1) There shall be five (5) circuit judges for the
164 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
165 from each subdistrict.

166 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
167 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
168 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
169 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
170 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as

171 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
172 of the court.

173 **[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section**
174 **shall read as follows:]**

175 9-7-25. There shall be six (6) circuit judges for the
176 Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be separate
177 and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
178 subdistrict.

179 **[From January 1, 2031, until January 1, 2035, this section**
180 **shall read as follows:]**

181 9-7-25. (1) There shall be six (6) circuit judges for the
182 Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be separate
183 and distinct.

184 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
185 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

186 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County;

187 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and
188 Jefferson Counties; and

189 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of all precincts
190 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
191 District as described in Section 29-5-203.

192 (3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1.
193 The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct
194 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
195 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two",



196 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four".
197 For subdistricts 7-2 and 7-3, one (1) judge shall be elected from
198 each subdistrict.

199 **[From and after January 1, 2035, this section shall read as**
200 **follows:]**

201 9-7-25. (1) There shall be five (5) circuit judges for the
202 Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be separate
203 and distinct.

204 (2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into
205 two (2) subdistricts as follows:

206 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County; and
207 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and
208 Jefferson Counties.

209 (3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1.
210 The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct
211 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
212 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two",
213 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four".
214 One (1) judge shall be elected from subdistrict 7-2.

215 **SECTION 5.** (1) If this act is approved by the Governor or
216 becomes law without the Governor's signature by January 23, 2026,
217 any candidate for the office of circuit judge for the Fourth
218 Circuit Court District whose term of office begins January 1,
219 2027, for the Fourth District shall file their intent to be a
220 candidate no later than February 2, 2026, and qualify as otherwise



221 provided in Section 23-15-977 for candidates for judicial office;
222 however, if this act has not been approved by the Governor or does
223 not become law without the Governor's signature by January 23,
224 2026, any candidate for the offices of circuit judge for the
225 Fourth Circuit Court District whose term of office begins January
226 1, 2027, for the Fourth Circuit Court District shall file their
227 intent to be a candidate no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2026,
228 and qualify as otherwise provided in Section 23-15-977 for
229 candidates for judicial office.

230 (2) If this act is approved by the Governor or becomes law
231 without the Governor's signature by January 23, 2026, any
232 candidate for the office of circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit
233 Court District that takes office from and after January 1, 2027,
234 for the Seventh Circuit Court District shall file their intent to
235 be a candidate no later than February 2, 2026, and qualify as
236 otherwise provided in Section 23-15-977 for candidates for
237 judicial office; however, if this act has not been approved by the
238 Governor or does not become law without the Governor's signature
239 by January 23, 2026, any candidate for the office of circuit judge
240 for the Seventh Circuit Court District that takes office from and
241 after January 1, 2027, for the Seventh Circuit Court District
242 shall file their intent to be a candidate no later than 5:00 p.m.
243 on May 1, 2026, and qualify as otherwise provided in Section
244 23-15-977 for candidates for judicial office.



245 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
246 and after its passage.

