

By: Representative Endt

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 163

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-1015, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CHANGE THE DATE ON WHICH CIRCUIT AND CHANCERY COURT JUDGES ARE
3 ELECTED; TO CHANGE THE QUALIFYING DEADLINE FOR CIRCUIT AND
4 CHANCERY COURT JUDGES FROM THE FIRST MONDAY IN MAY TO MARCH 1; TO
5 AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY
6 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-1015, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 23-15-1015. * * * On the first Tuesday in June 2002, and
11 every four (4) years thereafter and concurrently with the first
12 primary election for Congress, there shall be held an election in
13 every county for judges of the several circuit and chancery court
14 districts. If a run-off election is necessary, then it shall be
15 held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2002,
16 concurrently with the general election for representatives in
17 Congress. The laws regulating the general elections shall, except
18 as otherwise provided for in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985,
19 apply to and govern elections of judges of the circuit and
20 chancery courts.

21 SECTION 2. (1) All candidates for circuit judge and
22 chancellor shall file their intent to be a candidate with the
23 proper officials not later than March 1 of the year in which the
24 first election for these offices is held and shall pay to the
25 proper officials the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

26 (2) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor shall file
27 their intent to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment
28 made pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State

29 Board of Election Commissioners.

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

32 23-15-977. (1) All candidates for judicial office as
33 defined in Section 23-15-975 of this subarticle, except candidates
34 for circuit judge and chancellors shall file their intent to be a
35 candidate with the proper officials not later than the first
36 Friday after the first Monday in May before the general election
37 for judicial office and shall pay to the proper officials the
38 following amounts:

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

41 * * *

42 (b) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,
43 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

44 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph

45 (a) * * * of subsection (1) of this section shall file their
46 intent to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
47 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
48 Election Commissioners.

49 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (b)
50 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
51 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
52 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
53 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
54 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
55 candidate filed with, and paid the proper assessment to, such
56 clerk. Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days
57 and shall contain all necessary information.

58 SECTION 4. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
59 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
60 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
61 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
62 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
63 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
64 extended.

65 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from

66 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
67 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.