

By: Lee, Farris, Stogner, King, Hyde-Smith, To: Judiciary
Harvey

SENATE BILL NO. 2126
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-42, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT
3 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
4 CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 9-7-42. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifteenth
9 Circuit Court District; however, from and after January 1, 2001,
10 there shall be three (3) judges for the Fifteenth Circuit Court
11 District.

12 (2) For the purposes of the 2000 election only, any
13 candidates for the third position of Circuit Judge of the
14 Fifteenth Circuit Court District shall file intent to be a
15 candidate not later than thirty (30) days prior to the general
16 election. The qualification and election of the three (3)
17 judgeships shall otherwise be as provided by Sections 23-15-974
18 through 23-15-985.

19 SECTION 2. Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
20 amended as follows:

21 23-15-977. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by law,
22 all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section 23-15-975
23 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a candidate with
24 the proper officials not later than the first Friday after the
25 first Monday in May prior to the general election for judicial
26 office and shall pay to the proper officials the following
27 amounts:

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

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

32 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,
33 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

34 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
35 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
36 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
37 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
38 Election Commissioners.

39 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)
40 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
41 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
42 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
43 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
44 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
45 candidate filed with, and paid the proper assessment to, such
46 clerk. Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days
47 and shall contain all necessary information.

48 SECTION 3. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
49 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
50 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
51 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
52 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
53 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
54 extended.

55 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
57 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended, subject to the
58 availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor by the
59 Legislature during the 2000 Regular Session or any subsequent
60 session. It is the intent of the Legislature that this act shall

61 not take effect until the Legislature has funded the
62 implementation thereof by line item appropriation as certified to
63 the Secretary of State by the Legislative Budget Office.