

By: Representative Espy

To: Apportionment and
Elections

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 955

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO
3 REGISTER TO VOTE; TO REQUIRE THE REGISTRAR OF EACH COUNTY TO VISIT
4 EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, OR COMMUNITY OR
5 JUNIOR COLLEGE IN THE COUNTY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTERING TO
6 VOTE ANY PERSON WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE COUNTY, REQUIRE
7 THAT THE REGISTRAR OF EACH PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY OR
8 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE INCLUDE A MAIL-IN APPLICATION TO
9 REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS AT THE
10 TIME THAT THEY REGISTER TO ATTEND THE INSTITUTION OR COLLEGE; TO
11 PROVIDE A STIPEND FOR REGISTRARS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall keep his books open at
16 his office and shall register the electors of his county at any
17 time during regular office hours.

18 (2) The registrar may keep his office open for registration
19 of voters from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., including the noon hour,
20 for the five (5) business days immediately preceding the thirtieth
21 day prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.
22 The registrar may also keep his office open from 8:00 a.m. until
23 12:00 noon on the Saturday immediately preceding the thirtieth day
24 prior to any regularly scheduled primary or general election.

25 (3) The registrar, or any deputy registrar duly appointed by
26 law, may visit and spend such time as he may deem necessary at any
27 location in his county, selected by the registrar not less than
28 thirty (30) days before an election, for the purpose of
29 registering voters.

30 (4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit
31 the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such



32 disability may contact the registrar and request that the
33 registrar or his deputy visit him for the purpose of registering
34 such person to vote. The registrar or his deputy shall visit such
35 person as soon as possible after such request and provide such
36 person with an application for registration, if necessary. The
37 completed application for registration shall be executed in the
38 presence of the registrar or his deputy.

39 (5) The registrar of each county shall visit each public and
40 private high school in the county at least twice during each
41 calendar year for the purpose of registering to vote any person
42 who is eligible to vote in the county, provided that the private
43 high schools permit admission by the registrar for this purpose.
44 The registrar shall provide to each public or private high school
45 a sufficient number of mail-in applications to register to vote,
46 so that a mail-in application may be included in the materials
47 distributed to students attending such schools reaching the age of
48 eighteen (18) years in the calendar year in question.

49 SECTION 2. Effective October 1, 2001, the registrar shall
50 receive a stipend of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)
51 for providing the services of school visits required by this act.

52 SECTION 3. The registrar of each public or private
53 institution of higher learning and of each community or junior
54 college shall include a mail-in application to register to vote in
55 any materials distributed to students at the time that they
56 register to attend the institution or college.

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



64 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
65 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
66 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

