

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 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO REGISTER TO
3 VOTE; TO AUTHORIZE THE REGISTRAR OF EACH COUNTY TO VISIT EACH
4 PUBLIC SCHOOL, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTERING TO VOTE ANY PERSON
5 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE COUNTY; TO PROVIDE THAT REGISTRARS
6 SHALL PROVIDE MAIL-IN APPLICATIONS TO REGISTER TO VOTE TO
7 STUDENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 23-15-37. (1) The registrar shall keep his books open at
12 his office and shall register the electors of his county at any
13 time during regular office hours.

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

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

26 (4) A person who is physically disabled and unable to visit
27 the office of the registrar to register to vote due to such
28 disability may contact the registrar and request that the

29 registrar or his deputy visit him for the purpose of registering
30 such person to vote. The registrar or his deputy shall visit such
31 person as soon as possible after such request and provide such
32 person with an application for registration, if necessary. The
33 completed application for registration shall be executed in the
34 presence of the registrar or his deputy.

35 (5) (a) In the fall and spring of each year the registrar
36 of each county shall furnish all public schools with mail-in voter
37 registration applications. Such applications shall be provided in
38 a reasonable time to enable those students who will be eighteen
39 (18) years of age before a general election to be able to vote in
40 the primary and general elections.

41 (b) Each public school district shall permit access to
42 all public schools of this state for the registrar or his deputy
43 for the purpose of registration of persons eligible to vote and
44 for providing voter education.

45 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
46 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
47 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
48 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
49 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
50 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
51 extended.

52 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
54 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.