

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Education; Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2864  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-5-1, 37-5-18, 37-7-203 AND  
2 37-7-207, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL  
3 BOARDS TO REAPPORTION THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTION DISTRICTS; TO  
4 PROVIDE FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF CERTAIN LINE  
5 CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-5-1. (1) There is hereby established a county board of  
10 education in each county of the State of Mississippi. Said county  
11 board of education shall consist of five (5) members, one (1) of  
12 which, subject to the further provisions of this chapter and  
13 except as is otherwise provided in Section 37-5-1(2), shall be  
14 elected by the qualified electors of each board of education  
15 district of the county. Except as is otherwise provided in  
16 Section 37-5-3, each member so elected shall be a resident and  
17 qualified elector of the district from which he is elected.

18 (2) \* \* \* The county board of education shall apportion the  
19 county school district into five (5) single member board of  
20 education districts. The county board of education shall place  
21 upon its minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5)  
22 board of education districts. The board of education of said  
23 county shall thereafter publish the same in some newspaper of  
24 general circulation within said county for at least three (3)  
25 consecutive weeks and after having given notice of publication and  
26 recording the same upon the minutes of the board of education of  
27 said county, said new district lines will thereafter be effective.  
28 The board of education of said county shall reapportion the board



29 of education districts in accordance with the procedure described  
30 herein for the original apportionment of districts as soon as  
31 practicable after the results of the 2000 decennial census are  
32 published and as soon as practicable after every decennial census  
33 thereafter.

34 (3) In counties where the office of "administrative  
35 superintendent" as defined in Section 37-6-3, Mississippi Code of  
36 1972, has been abolished, there shall be no county board of  
37 education.

38 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-5-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
39 amended as follows:

40 37-5-18. In any county bordering on the Mississippi Sound  
41 and having therein at least four (4) municipal separate school  
42 districts, each member of the county board of education  
43 established by Section 37-5-1 for such county shall be elected  
44 from and shall be a resident and qualified elector in a special  
45 district determined in the following manner:

46 The board of education of such a county shall apportion the  
47 county into five (5) board of education districts in the territory  
48 outside the municipal separate school districts and these board of  
49 education districts shall be divided as nearly equal as possible  
50 according to population, incumbency and other factors heretofore  
51 pronounced by the courts. The board of education shall place upon  
52 its minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5) board  
53 of education districts. The board of education of said county  
54 shall thereafter publish the same in some newspaper of general  
55 circulation within said county for at least three (3) consecutive  
56 weeks and after having given notice of publication and recording  
57 the same upon the minutes of the board of education of said  
58 county, said new district lines will thereafter be effective.

59 All incumbents now holding office within the district as  
60 presently constituted shall continue holding their respective  
61 offices provided they reside within the new district for the



62 remainder of the term of office to which they have heretofore been  
63 elected and all members from the respective district shall be  
64 elected from the new board of education district constituted as  
65 herein provided in the same manner provided by law for the  
66 election of members of the county board of education. Any  
67 vacancies in the office, whether occasioned by redistricting or by  
68 other cause, shall be filled in the manner presently provided by  
69 law for the filling of vacancies.

70 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-7-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
71 amended as follows:

72 37-7-203. (1) The boards of trustees of all municipal  
73 separate school districts created under the provisions of Article  
74 1 of this chapter, either with or without added territory, shall  
75 consist of five (5) members, each to be chosen for a term of five  
76 (5) years, but so chosen that the term of office of one (1) member  
77 shall expire each year. In the event the added territory of a  
78 municipal separate school district furnishes fifteen percent (15%)  
79 or more of the pupils enrolled in the schools of such district,  
80 then at least one (1) member of the board of trustees of such  
81 school district shall be a resident of the added territory outside  
82 the corporate limits. In the event the added territory of a  
83 municipal separate school district furnishes thirty percent (30%)  
84 or more of the pupils enrolled in the schools of such district,  
85 then not more than two (2) members of the board of trustees of  
86 such school district shall be residents of the added territory  
87 outside the corporate limits. In the event the added territory of  
88 a municipal separate school district in a county in which  
89 Mississippi Highways 8 and 15 intersect furnishes thirty percent  
90 (30%) or more of the pupils enrolled in the schools of such  
91 district, then the five (5) members of the board of trustees of  
92 such school district shall be elected at large from such school  
93 district for a term of five (5) years each except that the two (2)  
94 elected trustees presently serving on such board shall continue to



95 serve for their respective terms of office. The three (3)  
96 appointed trustees presently serving on such board shall continue  
97 to serve until their successors are elected in March of 1975 in  
98 the manner provided for in Section 37-7-215. At such election,  
99 one (1) trustee shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, one  
100 (1) for a term of three (3) years and one (1) for a term of five  
101 (5) years. Subsequent terms for each successor trustee shall be  
102 for five (5) years. In the event one (1) of two (2) municipal  
103 separate school districts located in any county with two (2)  
104 judicial districts, District 1 being comprised of Supervisors  
105 Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5, and District 2 being comprised of  
106 Supervisors District 3, with added territory embraces three (3)  
107 full supervisors districts of a county, one (1) trustee shall be  
108 elected from each of the three (3) supervisors districts outside  
109 the corporate limits of the municipality. In the further event  
110 that the territory of a municipal separate school district located  
111 in any county with two (2) judicial districts, District 1 being  
112 comprised of Supervisors Districts 1, 2, 4 and 5, and District 2  
113 being comprised of Supervisors District 3, with added territory  
114 embraces four (4) full supervisors districts in the county, and in  
115 any county in which a municipal separate school district embraces  
116 the entire county in which Highways 14 and 15 intersect, one (1)  
117 trustee shall be elected from each supervisors district.

118 Except as otherwise provided herein, the trustees of such a  
119 municipal separate school district shall be elected by a majority  
120 of the governing authorities of the municipality at the first  
121 meeting of the governing authorities held in the month of February  
122 of each year, and the term of office of the member so elected  
123 shall commence on the first Saturday of March following. In the  
124 case of a member of said board of trustees who is required to come  
125 from the added territory outside the corporate limits as is above  
126 provided, such member of the board of trustees shall be elected by  
127 the qualified electors of the school district residing in such



128 added territory outside the corporate limits at the same time and  
129 in the same manner as is otherwise provided in this article for  
130 the election of trustees of school districts other than municipal  
131 separate school districts.

132 In the event that a portion of a county school district is  
133 reconstituted, in the manner provided by law, into a municipal  
134 separate school district with added territory and in the event  
135 that the trustees to be elected from the added territory are  
136 requested to be elected from separate election districts within  
137 the added territory, instead of elected at-large, by the Attorney  
138 General of the United States as a result of and pursuant to  
139 preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as  
140 amended and extended, and in the event the added territory of a  
141 municipal separate school district of a municipality furnishes  
142 thirty percent (30%) or more of the pupils enrolled in the schools  
143 of such district, then two (2) members of the board of trustees  
144 shall be residents of the added territory outside the corporate  
145 limits of such municipality and shall be elected from special  
146 trustee election districts by the qualified electors thereof as  
147 herein provided. The board of trustees of the school district  
148 shall apportion the added territory into two (2) special trustee  
149 election districts as nearly as possible according to population  
150 and other factors heretofore pronounced by the courts. The board  
151 of trustees of the school district shall thereafter publish the  
152 same in a newspaper of general circulation within said school  
153 district for at least two (2) consecutive weeks; and after having  
154 given notice of publication and recording the same upon the  
155 minutes of the board of trustees of the school district, said new  
156 district lines shall thereafter be effective. Any person elected  
157 from the new trustee election districts constituted herein shall  
158 be elected in the manner provided for in Section 37-7-215 for a  
159 term of five (5) years. Any vacancy in the office of a trustee  
160 elected from such trustee election district, whether occasioned by



161 redistricting or by other cause, shall be filled by appointment of  
162 the governing authorities of the municipality, provided that the  
163 person so appointed shall serve only until the first Saturday of  
164 March following his appointment, at which time a person shall be  
165 elected for the remainder of the unexpired term in the manner  
166 provided in Section 37-7-215.

167 In any county organizing a countywide municipal separate  
168 school district after January 1, 1965, the trustees thereof to be  
169 elected from outside the municipality, such trustees shall be  
170 elected by the board of supervisors of such county, and the  
171 superintendent of such school district shall have authority to pay  
172 out and distribute the funds of said district. In the event a  
173 municipal separate school district should occupy territory in a  
174 county other than that in which the municipality is located and  
175 fifteen percent (15%) or more of the pupils enrolled in the  
176 schools of such district shall come from the territory of the  
177 district in the county other than that in which the municipality  
178 is located, the territory of such county in which the municipality  
179 is not located shall be entitled to one (1) member on the board of  
180 trustees of such school district. Said trustee shall be a  
181 resident of the territory of that part of the district lying in  
182 the county in which the municipality is not located and shall be  
183 elected by the qualified electors of the territory of such county  
184 at the same time and in the same manner as is provided for the  
185 election of trustees of school districts other than municipal  
186 separate school districts having territory in two (2) or more  
187 counties.

188 All vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired terms by  
189 appointment of the governing authorities of the municipality;  
190 except that in the case of the trustees coming from the added  
191 territory outside the corporate limits, the person so appointed  
192 shall serve only until the first Saturday of March following his  
193 appointment, at which time a person shall be elected for the



194 remainder of the unexpired term in the manner otherwise provided  
195 herein.

196 No person who is a member of such governing body, or who is  
197 an employee of the municipality, or who is a member of the county  
198 board of education, or who is a trustee of any public, private or  
199 sectarian school or college located in the county, inclusive of  
200 the municipal separate school district, or who is a teacher in or  
201 a trustee of said school district, shall be eligible for  
202 appointment to said board of trustees.

203 (2) In counties of less than fifteen thousand (15,000)  
204 people having a municipal separate school district with added  
205 territory which embraces all the territory of a county, one (1) or  
206 more trustees of such district shall be nominated from each  
207 supervisors district upon petition of fifty (50) qualified  
208 electors of said district, or twenty percent (20%) of the  
209 qualified electors of such district, whichever number shall be  
210 smaller, and shall be elected by a plurality of the vote of the  
211 qualified electors of said county. One (1) trustee so elected  
212 shall reside in each supervisors district of the county. In such  
213 counties embraced entirely by a municipal separate school district  
214 there shall be no county board of education after the formation of  
215 such district and the county superintendent of education shall act  
216 as superintendent of schools of said district and shall be  
217 appointed by the board of trustees of said district, and the  
218 provisions of subsection (1) of this section and the first  
219 paragraph of Section 37-7-211 shall not apply to such districts.

220 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-7-207, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
221 amended as follows:

222 **[Until such time as Section 1 of Laws, 1990, ch. 567, is**  
223 **effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as**  
224 **amended and extended, this section will read as follows:]**

225 37-7-207. (1) All school districts reconstituted or created  
226 under the provisions of Article 1 of this chapter, and which lie



227 wholly within one (1) county, but not including municipal separate  
228 and countywide districts, shall be governed by a board of five (5)  
229 trustees. The first board of trustees of such districts shall be  
230 appointed by the county board of education, and the original  
231 appointments shall be so made that one (1) trustee shall be  
232 appointed to serve until the first Saturday of March following  
233 such appointments, one (1) for one (1) year longer, one (1) for  
234 two (2) years longer, one (1) for three (3) years longer, and one  
235 (1) for four (4) years longer. After such original appointments,  
236 the trustees of such school districts shall be elected by the  
237 qualified electors of such school districts in the manner provided  
238 for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229, with each trustee to be  
239 elected for a term of five (5) years. The five (5) members of the  
240 board of trustees of such consolidated school district shall be  
241 elected from special trustee election districts by the qualified  
242 electors thereof, as herein provided. \* \* \* The board of trustees  
243 of any such consolidated school district \* \* \* shall apportion the  
244 consolidated school district into five (5) special trustee  
245 election districts. The board of trustees of such school district  
246 shall place upon its minutes the boundaries determined for the new  
247 five (5) trustee election districts. The board of trustees shall  
248 thereafter publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation  
249 within said school district for at least three (3) consecutive  
250 weeks; and after having given notice of publication and recording  
251 the same upon the minutes of the board of trustees, said new  
252 district lines shall thereafter be effective.

253 On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in  
254 any year in which any consolidated school district shall elect to  
255 utilize the authority to create single member election districts,  
256 an election shall be held in each such district in this state for  
257 the purpose of electing the board of trustees of such district.  
258 At said election the member of the said board from District One  
259 shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, the member from





260 District Two shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, the  
261 member from District Three shall be elected for a term of three  
262 (3) years, the member from District Four shall be elected for a  
263 term of four (4) years, and the member from District Five shall be  
264 elected for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter, members shall  
265 be elected at general elections as vacancies occur for terms of  
266 five (5) years each. Trustees elected from single member election  
267 districts as provided above shall otherwise be elected as provided  
268 for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229. All members of the  
269 said board of trustees shall take office on the first Monday of  
270 January following the date of their election. All vacancies which  
271 may occur during a term shall be filled by appointment of the  
272 consolidated school district trustees, but the person so appointed  
273 shall serve only until the next general election following such  
274 appointment, at which time a person shall be elected for the  
275 remainder of the unexpired term at the same time and in the same  
276 manner as a trustee is elected for the full term then expiring.  
277 The person so elected to the unexpired term shall take office  
278 immediately. Said appointee shall be selected from the qualified  
279 electors of the district in which the vacancy occurs.

280 (2) All school districts reconstituted and created under the  
281 provisions of Article 1 of this chapter, which embrace territory  
282 in two (2) or more counties, but not including municipal separate  
283 school districts, shall be governed by a board of five (5)  
284 trustees. In making the original appointments, the several county  
285 boards of education shall appoint the trustee or trustees to which  
286 the territory in such county is entitled, and, by agreement  
287 between the county boards concerned, one (1) person shall be  
288 appointed to serve until the first Saturday of March following,  
289 one (1) for one (1) year longer, one (1) for two (2) years longer,  
290 one (1) for three (3) years longer and one (1) for four (4) years  
291 longer. Thereafter, such trustees shall be elected as is provided  
292 for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229, for a term of five (5)



293 years. The five (5) members of the board of trustees of such line  
294 consolidated school district shall be elected from special trustee  
295 election districts by the qualified electors thereof, as herein  
296 provided. \* \* \* The existing board of trustees of such line  
297 consolidated school district \* \* \* shall apportion the line  
298 consolidated school district into five (5) special trustee  
299 election districts. The board of trustees shall place upon its  
300 minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5) trustee  
301 election districts. The board of trustees shall thereafter  
302 publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation within said  
303 school district for at least three (3) consecutive weeks; and  
304 after having given notice of publication and recording the same  
305 upon the minutes of the board of trustees, said new district lines  
306 shall thereafter be effective. Provided, however, that in any  
307 Line Consolidated School District encompassing two (2) or more  
308 counties created pursuant to Laws, 1953, Extraordinary Session,  
309 Chapter 12, Section 8, in which, as a condition precedent to the  
310 creation of said district, each county belonging thereto was  
311 contractually guaranteed to always have at least one (1)  
312 representative on said board, in order that said condition  
313 precedent may be honored and guaranteed, in any year in which the  
314 board of trustees of such Line Consolidated School District does  
315 not have at least one (1) member from each county or part thereof  
316 forming such district, the board of trustees in such district  
317 shall be governed by a board of a sufficient number of trustees to  
318 fulfill this guarantee, five (5) of whom shall be elected from the  
319 five (5) special trustee election districts which shall be as  
320 nearly equal as possible and one (1) member trustee appointed at  
321 large from each county not having representation on the elected  
322 board. In such cases, the board of supervisors of each county  
323 shall make written agreement to guarantee the manner of  
324 appointment of at least one (1) representative from each county in



325 the district, placing such written agreement on the minutes of  
326 each board of supervisors in each county.

327         On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in  
328 any year in which any line consolidated school district shall  
329 elect to utilize the authority to create single member election  
330 districts, an election shall be held in each such district in this  
331 state for the purpose of electing the board of trustees of such  
332 district. At said election the member of the said board from  
333 District One shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, the  
334 member from District Two shall be elected for a term of two (2)  
335 years, the member from District Three shall be elected for a term  
336 of three (3) years, the member from District Four shall be elected  
337 for a term of four (4) years, and the member from District Five  
338 shall be elected for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter,  
339 members shall be elected at general elections as vacancies occur  
340 for terms of five (5) years each. Trustees elected from single  
341 member election districts as provided above shall otherwise be  
342 elected as provided for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229.  
343 All members of the said board of trustees shall take office on the  
344 first Monday of January following the date of their election. In  
345 all elections, the trustee elected shall be a resident and  
346 qualified elector of the district entitled to the representation  
347 upon the board, and he shall be elected only by the qualified  
348 electors of such district. All vacancies which may occur during a  
349 term of office shall be filled by appointment of the consolidated  
350 line school district trustees, but the person so appointed shall  
351 serve only until the next general election following such  
352 appointment, at which time a person shall be elected for the  
353 remainder of the unexpired term at the same time and in the same  
354 manner as the trustee is elected for the full term then expiring.  
355 The person so elected to the unexpired term shall take office  
356 immediately.



357           **[From and after such time as Section 1 of Laws, 1990, ch.**  
358 **567, is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of**  
359 **1965, as amended and extended, this section will read as follows:]**  
360           37-7-207. (1) All school districts reconstituted or created  
361 under the provisions of Article 1 of this chapter, and which lie  
362 wholly within one (1) county, but not including municipal separate  
363 and countywide districts, shall be governed by a board of five (5)  
364 trustees. The first board of trustees of such districts shall be  
365 appointed by the county board of education, and the original  
366 appointments shall be so made that one (1) trustee shall be  
367 appointed to serve until the first Saturday of March following  
368 such appointments, one (1) for one (1) year longer, one (1) for  
369 two (2) years longer, one (1) for three (3) years longer, and one  
370 (1) for four (4) years longer. After such original appointments,  
371 the trustees of such school districts shall be elected by the  
372 qualified electors of such school districts in the manner provided  
373 for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229, Mississippi Code of  
374 1972, with each trustee to be elected for a term of five (5)  
375 years. The five (5) members of the board of trustees of such  
376 consolidated school district may be elected from special trustee  
377 election districts by the qualified electors thereof, as herein  
378 provided. \* \* \* The board of trustees of such consolidated school  
379 district shall apportion the consolidated school district into  
380 five (5) special trustee election districts. The board of  
381 trustees of such consolidated school district shall place upon its  
382 minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5) trustee  
383 election districts. The board of trustees shall thereafter  
384 publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation within said  
385 school district for at least three (3) consecutive weeks; and  
386 after having given notice of publication and recording the same  
387 upon the minutes of the board of trustees, said new district lines  
388 shall thereafter be effective.



389 Provided, however, that in any Line Consolidated School District  
390 encompassing two (2) or more counties created pursuant to Laws,  
391 1953, Extraordinary Session, Chapter 12, Section 8, in which, as a  
392 condition precedent to the creation of said district, each county  
393 belonging thereto was contractually guaranteed to always have at  
394 least one (1) representative on said board, in order that said  
395 condition precedent may be honored and guaranteed, in any year in  
396 which the board of trustees of such Line Consolidated School  
397 District does not have at least one (1) member from each county or  
398 part thereof forming such district, the board of trustees in such  
399 district shall be governed by a board of a sufficient number of  
400 trustees to fulfill this guarantee, five (5) of whom shall be  
401 elected from the five (5) special trustee election districts which  
402 shall be as nearly equal as possible and one (1) member trustee  
403 appointed at large from each county not having representation on  
404 the elected board. In such cases, the board of supervisors of  
405 each county shall make written agreement to guarantee the manner  
406 of appointment of at least one (1) representative from each county  
407 in the district, placing such written agreement on the minutes of  
408 each board of supervisors in each county.

409       On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in  
410 any year in which any consolidated school district shall elect to  
411 utilize the authority to create single member election districts,  
412 an election shall be held in each such district in this state for  
413 the purpose of electing the board of trustees of such district.  
414 At said election the member of the said board from District One  
415 shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, the member from  
416 District Two shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, the  
417 member from District Three shall be elected for a term of three  
418 (3) years, the member from District Four shall be elected for a  
419 term of four (4) years, and the member from District Five shall be  
420 elected for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter, members shall  
421 be elected at general elections as vacancies occur for terms of



422 five (5) years each. Trustees elected from single member election  
423 districts as provided above shall otherwise be elected as provided  
424 for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229, Mississippi Code of  
425 1972. All members of the said board of trustees shall take office  
426 on the first Monday of January following the date of their  
427 election. All vacancies which may occur during a term shall be  
428 filled by appointment of the consolidated school district  
429 trustees, but the person so appointed shall serve only until the  
430 next general election following such appointment, at which time a  
431 person shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term at  
432 the same time and in the same manner as a trustee is elected for  
433 the full term then expiring. The person so elected to the  
434 unexpired term shall take office immediately. Said appointee  
435 shall be selected from the qualified electors of the district in  
436 which the vacancy occurs.

437 (2) All school districts reconstituted and created under the  
438 provisions of Article 1 of this chapter, which embrace territory  
439 in two (2) or more counties, but not including municipal separate  
440 school districts, shall be governed by a board of five (5)  
441 trustees. In making the original appointments, the several county  
442 boards of education shall appoint the trustee or trustees to which  
443 the territory in such county is entitled, and, by agreement  
444 between the county boards concerned, one (1) person shall be  
445 appointed to serve until the first Saturday of March following  
446 such appointments, one (1) for one (1) year longer, one (1) for  
447 two (2) years longer, one (1) for three (3) years longer and one  
448 (1) for four (4) years longer. Thereafter, such trustees shall be  
449 elected as is provided for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229,  
450 Mississippi Code of 1972, for a term of five (5) years. The five  
451 (5) members of the board of trustees of such line consolidated  
452 school district may be elected from special trustee election  
453 districts by the qualified electors thereof, as herein  
454 provided. \* \* \* The board of trustees of any such line



455 consolidated school district \* \* \* shall apportion the line  
456 consolidated school district into five (5) special trustee  
457 election districts. The board of trustees shall place upon its  
458 minutes the boundaries determined for the new five (5) trustee  
459 election districts. The board of trustees shall thereafter  
460 publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation within said  
461 school district for at least three (3) consecutive weeks; and  
462 after having given notice of publication and recording the same  
463 upon the minutes of the board of trustees, said new district lines  
464 shall thereafter be effective.

465 On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in  
466 any year in which any line consolidated school district shall  
467 elect to utilize the authority to create single member election  
468 districts, an election shall be held in each such district in this  
469 state for the purpose of electing the board of trustees of such  
470 district. At said election the member of the said board from  
471 District One shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, the  
472 member from District Two shall be elected for a term of two (2)  
473 years, the member from District Three shall be elected for a term  
474 of three (3) years, the member from District Four shall be elected  
475 for a term of four (4) years, and the member from District Five  
476 shall be elected for a term of five (5) years. Thereafter,  
477 members shall be elected at general elections as vacancies occur  
478 for terms of five (5) years each. Trustees elected from single  
479 member election districts as provided above shall otherwise be  
480 elected as provided for in Sections 37-7-223 through 37-7-229,  
481 Mississippi Code of 1972. All members of the said board of  
482 trustees shall take office on the first Monday of January  
483 following the date of their election. In all such elections, the  
484 trustee elected shall be a resident and qualified elector of the  
485 district entitled to the representation upon the board, and he  
486 shall be elected only by the qualified electors of such district.  
487 All vacancies which may occur during a term of office shall be



488 filled by appointment of the consolidated line school district  
489 trustees, but the person so appointed shall serve only until the  
490 next general election following such appointment, at which time a  
491 person shall be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term at  
492 the same time and in the same manner as the trustee is elected for  
493 the full term then expiring. The person so elected to the  
494 unexpired term shall take office immediately.

495         **SECTION 5.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
496 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
497 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
498 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
499 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
500 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
501 extended.

502         **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
503 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
504 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

