

By: Representative Cameron

To: Apportionment and  
Elections

## HOUSE BILL NO. 326

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-541, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION OF ELECTORS BEFORE VOTING; TO REQUIRE  
3 ELECTORS TO SHOW A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AN IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED  
4 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR OTHER FORM OF LEGAL  
5 IDENTIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-541, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 23-15-541. At all elections, the polls shall be opened at  
10 seven o'clock in the morning and be kept open until seven o'clock  
11 in the evening and no longer. Upon the opening of the polls, and  
12 not before, the managers of the election shall designate two (2)  
13 of their number, other than the manager previously designated to  
14 receive the blank ballots, who shall \* \* \* be known respectively  
15 as the initialing manager and the alternate initialing manager.  
16 The alternate initialing manager, in the absence of the initialing  
17 manager, shall perform all of the duties and undertake all of the  
18 responsibilities of the initialing manager. When any person  
19 entitled to vote shall appear to vote, the managers shall identify  
20 the voter, in the presence and view of the bystanders, by  
21 requiring the voter to submit a valid Mississippi driver's  
22 license, an identification card issued by the Department of Public  
23 Safety, a voter registration card, a Medicaid or Medicare card,  
24 health insurance card, tax receipt or other identification card or  
25 by comparison with the descriptive information on the pollbook or  
26 by having a person from the precinct vouch for the person's  
27 identification; and then that person shall \* \* \* sign his name in  
28 a receipt book or booklet provided for that purpose and to be used



29 at that election only and the receipt book or booklet shall be  
30 used in lieu of the list made by the managers or clerks which  
31 lists the voters who have voted formerly \* \* \*; whereupon and not  
32 before, the initialing manager or, in his absence, the alternate  
33 initialing manager shall indorse his initials on the back of an  
34 official blank ballot, prepared in accordance with law, and at  
35 such place on the back of the ballot that the initials may be seen  
36 after the ballot has been marked and folded, and when so indorsed  
37 he shall deliver it to the voter, which ballot the voter shall  
38 mark in the manner provided by law, which when done the voter  
39 shall deliver the same to the initialing manager or, in his  
40 absence, to the alternate initialing manager, in the presence of  
41 the others, and the manager shall see that the ballot so delivered  
42 bears on the back thereof the genuine initials of the initialing  
43 manager, or alternate initialing manager, and if so, but not  
44 otherwise, the ballot shall be put into the ballot box; and when  
45 so done one (1) of the managers or a duly appointed clerk shall  
46 make the proper entry on the pollbook. If the voter is unable to  
47 write his name on the receipt book, a manager or clerk shall note  
48 on the back of the ballot that it was receipted for by his  
49 assistance.

50       **SECTION 2.** Section 4, Chapter 528, Laws of 1993, which  
51 requires voters to show identification before voting, is repealed.

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

59       **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
60 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
61 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

