

By: Representative Formby

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 185

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

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