

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1357

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT
3 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN
4 CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 9-7-25. (1) There shall be five (5) circuit judges for the
9 Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected
10 from each subdistrict except that two (2) judges shall be elected
11 from subdistrict 7-1.

12 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
13 powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
14 by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First
15 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
16 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
17 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
18 of the court.

19 (3) For the purposes of the 2006 election only, any
20 candidates for the second position in subdistrict 7-1, shall file
21 intent to be a candidate not later than thirty (30) days prior to
22 the general election. The qualification and election of the five
23 (5) judgeships shall otherwise be as provided in Sections
24 23-15-974 through 23-15-981.

25 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-977, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
26 amended as follows:

27 23-15-977. (1) Except as may otherwise be provided by law,
28 all candidates for judicial office as defined in Section 23-15-975

29 of this subarticle shall file their intent to be a candidate with
30 the proper officials not later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday
31 after the first Monday in May prior to the general election for
32 judicial office and shall pay to the proper officials the
33 following amounts:

34 (a) Candidates for Supreme Court judge and Court of
35 Appeals, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

36 (b) Candidates for circuit judge and chancellor, the
37 sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

38 (c) Candidates for county judge and family court judge,
39 the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

40 (2) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraphs (a)
41 and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent
42 to be a candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made
43 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to, the State Board of
44 Election Commissioners.

45 (3) Candidates for judicial offices listed in paragraph (c)
46 of subsection (1) of this section shall file their intent to be a
47 candidate with, and pay the proper assessment made pursuant to
48 subsection (1) of this section to, the circuit clerk of the proper
49 county. The circuit clerk shall notify the county commissioners
50 of election of all persons who have filed their intent to be a
51 candidate with, and paid the proper assessment to, such clerk.
52 Such notification shall occur within two (2) business days and
53 shall contain all necessary information.

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

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