

By: Senator(s) Albritton

To: Judiciary, Division A;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2459

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 9-7-42, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL JUDGE FOR THE FIFTEENTH CIRCUIT COURT
3 DISTRICT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-977, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
4 PROVIDE THAT A PERSON MAY BE A CANDIDATE FOR ONLY ONE JUDICIAL
5 POST IN A SINGLE ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
10 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

11 (2) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3)
12 judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
13 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place
14 Two" and "Place Three."

15 (3) The initial holder of the "Place Three" judgeship shall
16 be elected in the regular election of November 2006; candidates
17 therefor shall qualify to run not later than forty-five (45) days
18 before that election. The person elected shall begin the term of
19 office in January of 2007 at the same time as circuit judges
20 generally, and there shall be no vacancy of the office before that
21 time. The three (3) judges shall otherwise be elected, and any
22 vacancy in office filled, as provided for circuit judges
23 generally.

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

26 23-15-977. (1) All candidates for judicial office as
27 defined in Section 23-15-975 of this subarticle shall file the
28 intent to be a candidate with the proper officials not later than

29 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday after the first Monday in May prior
30 to the general election for judicial office and shall pay to the
31 proper officials the following amounts:

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

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

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

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

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

52 (4) A candidate may qualify for only one (1) judicial
53 office.

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.