

By: Representative Scott

To: Apportionment and  
Elections; Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 61

1 AN ACT CREATE THE DONALD J. TRUMP VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION  
 2 ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 3 PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO IS OTHERWISE A QUALIFIED ELECTOR AND HAS  
 4 BEEN CONVICTED OF VOTER FRAUD, BRIBERY, THEFT, ARSON, OBTAINING  
 5 MONEY OR GOODS UNDER FALSE PRETENSE, PERJURY, FORGERY,  
 6 EMBEZZLEMENT, BIGAMY OR ANY CRIME INTERPRETED AS DISENFRANCHISING  
 7 IN LATER ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS EXCEPT FOR MURDER AND RAPE  
 8 SHALL HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE SUSPENDED UPON CONVICTION AND  
 9 SHALL NOT HAVE HIS OR HER RIGHT TO VOTE RESTORED UNTIL HE OR SHE  
 10 HAS SATISFIED ALL OF THE SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONVICTION  
 11 INCLUDING PAROLE BUT NOT PROBATION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-19,  
 12 23-15-125, 23-15-151, 23-15-153 AND 23-15-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 13 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO BRING FORWARD  
 14 SECTIONS 97-39-3 AND 99-19-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE  
 15 PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** The provisions of this act may be cited as the  
 18 "Donald J. Trump Voting Rights Restoration Act."

19 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 20 amended as follows:

21 23-15-11. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection  
 22 (2), every inhabitant of this state, except persons adjudicated to  
 23 be non compos mentis, shall be a qualified elector in and for the  
 24 county, municipality and voting precinct of his or her residence



25 and shall be entitled to vote at any election upon compliance with  
26 Section 23-15-563, if he or she is:

27 (a) \* \* \* A citizen of the United States of  
28 America \* \* \*;

29 (b) Eighteen (18) years old and upwards \* \* \*;

30 (c) \* \* \* A resident in this state for thirty (30) days  
31 and for thirty (30) days in the county in which he or she seeks to  
32 vote, and for thirty (30) days in the incorporated municipality in  
33 which he or she seeks to vote \* \* \*;

34 (d) \* \* \* Duly registered as an elector under Section  
35 23-15-33 \* \* \*; and

36 (e) \* \* \* Never \* \* \* convicted of rape or murder \* \* \*.

37 If the thirtieth day to register before an election falls on  
38 a Sunday or legal holiday, the registration applications submitted  
39 on the business day immediately following the Sunday or legal  
40 holiday shall be accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections  
41 Management System for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in  
42 the next election.

43 (2) A person who is otherwise a qualified elector under the  
44 provisions of subsection (1) and has been convicted of voter  
45 fraud, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false  
46 pretense, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, bigamy or any crime  
47 interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions  
48 except for murder and rape shall have his or her right to vote  
49 suspended upon conviction and shall have his or her right to vote



50 restored once he or she has satisfied all of the sentencing  
51 requirements of the conviction.

52 (3) Any person who will be eighteen (18) years of age or  
53 older on or before the date of the general election and who is  
54 duly registered to vote not less than thirty (30) days before the  
55 primary election associated with the general election, may vote in  
56 the primary election even though the person has not reached his or  
57 her eighteenth birthday at the time that the person seeks to vote  
58 at the primary election.

59 (4) No others than those specified in this section shall be  
60 entitled, or shall be allowed, to vote at any election.

61 **SECTION 3.** Section 23-15-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
62 amended as follows:

63 23-15-19. Any person who has been convicted of vote  
64 fraud \* \* \*, any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi  
65 Constitution of 1890, except for murder and rape, or any crime  
66 interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney General  
67 opinions, such crimes defined as "disenfranchising," shall \* \* \*  
68 have his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction and shall  
69 have his or her right to vote restored once he or she has  
70 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction.

71 Whenever any person shall be convicted in the circuit court of his  
72 or her county of a disenfranchising crime, the county registrar  
73 shall \* \* \* remove his or her name from the Statewide Elections  
74 Management System until he or she has satisfied all of the



75 sentencing requirements of the conviction; and whenever any person  
76 shall be convicted of a disenfranchising crime in any other court  
77 of any county, the presiding judge of the court shall, on demand,  
78 certify the fact in writing to the registrar of the county in  
79 which the voter resides, who shall \* \* \* remove the name of the  
80 person from the Statewide Elections Management System until he or  
81 she has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the  
82 conviction and retain the certificate as a record of his or her  
83 office.

84       **SECTION 4.** Section 23-15-125, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
85 amended as follows:

86       23-15-125. The pollbook of each voting precinct shall  
87 designate the voting precinct for which it is to be used, and  
88 shall be ruled in appropriate columns, with printed or written  
89 headings, as follows: date of registration; voter registration  
90 number; name of electors; date of birth; and a number of blank  
91 columns for the dates of elections. All qualified applicants who  
92 register with the registrar shall be entered in the Statewide  
93 Elections Management System. Only the names of those qualified  
94 applicants who register within thirty (30) days before an election  
95 shall appear on the pollbooks of the election; however, if the  
96 thirtieth day to register before an election falls on a Sunday or  
97 legal holiday, the registration applications submitted on the  
98 business day immediately following the legal holiday shall be  
99 accepted and entered in the Statewide Elections Management System



100 for the purpose of enabling voters to vote in the next election.  
101 When county election commissioners determine that any elector is  
102 disqualified from voting, by reason of death, conviction of a  
103 disenfranchising crime, removal from the jurisdiction, failure to  
104 comply with the provisions of Section 23-15-152, or other legal  
105 cause, that fact shall be noted in the Statewide Elections  
106 Management System and the voter's name shall be purged from the  
107 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and  
108 the county's pollbooks. Nothing in this section shall preclude  
109 the use of electronic pollbooks. A person who is otherwise a  
110 qualified elector under the provisions of Section 23-15-11 and has  
111 been convicted of voter fraud, bribery, theft, arson, obtaining  
112 money or goods under false pretense, perjury, forgery,  
113 embezzlement, bigamy or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising  
114 in later Attorney General opinions except for murder and rape  
115 shall have his or her right to vote suspended upon conviction but  
116 shall have his or her right to vote restored once he or she has  
117 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction.  
118 Once the person has satisfied all of the sentencing requirements  
119 of the conviction, the voter's name shall be restored in the  
120 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and  
121 the county's pollbooks.

122       **SECTION 5.** Section 23-15-151, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
123 amended as follows:



124           23-15-151. The circuit clerk of each county is authorized  
125 and directed to prepare and keep in his or her office a full and  
126 complete list, in alphabetical order, of persons convicted of  
127 voter fraud or of any crime listed in Section 241, Mississippi  
128 Constitution of 1890 or any crime interpreted as disenfranchising  
129 in later Attorney General opinions whose right to vote has been  
130 suspended upon conviction. A certified copy of any enrollment by  
131 one clerk to another will be sufficient authority for the  
132 enrollment of the name, or names, in another county. A list of  
133 persons convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241,  
134 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or any crime interpreted as  
135 disenfranchising in later Attorney General opinions, shall also be  
136 entered into the Statewide Elections Management System on a  
137 quarterly basis. \* \* \* A person who is otherwise a qualified  
138 elector under the provisions of Section 23-15-11 and has been  
139 convicted of voter fraud, any crime listed in Section 241,  
140 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, except for murder and rape, or  
141 any crime interpreted as disenfranchising in later Attorney  
142 General opinions, shall have his or her right to vote suspended  
143 upon conviction but shall have his or her right to vote  
144 automatically restored once he or she has satisfied all of the  
145 sentencing requirements of the conviction. Once the person has  
146 satisfied all of the sentencing requirements of the conviction,  
147 the voter's name shall be automatically restored into the



148 Statewide Elections Management System, the state's voter roll and  
149 the county's pollbooks.

150 **SECTION 6.** Section 23-15-153, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
151 amended as follows:

152 23-15-153. (1) At least during the following times, the  
153 election commissioners shall meet at the office of the registrar  
154 or the office of the election commissioners to carefully revise  
155 the county voter roll as electronically maintained by the  
156 Statewide Elections Management System and remove from the roll the  
157 names of all voters who have requested to be purged from the voter  
158 roll, died, received an adjudication of non compos mentis, been  
159 convicted of a disenfranchising crime and has had his or her right  
160 to vote suspended, failed to comply with the provisions of Section  
161 23-15-152, or otherwise become disqualified as electors for any  
162 cause, and shall register the names of all persons who have duly  
163 applied to be registered but have been illegally denied  
164 registration:

165 (a) On the Tuesday after the second Monday in January  
166 1987 and every following year;

167 (b) On the first Tuesday in the month immediately  
168 preceding the first primary election for members of Congress in  
169 the years when members of Congress are elected;

170 (c) On the first Monday in the month immediately  
171 preceding the first primary election for state, state district



172 legislative, county and county district offices in the years in  
173 which those offices are elected; and

174 (d) On the second Monday of September preceding the  
175 general election or regular special election day in years in which  
176 a general election is not conducted.

177 Except for the names of those voters who are duly qualified  
178 to vote in the election, no name shall be permitted to remain in  
179 the Statewide Elections Management System; however, no name shall  
180 be purged from the Statewide Elections Management System based on  
181 a change in the residence of an elector except in accordance with  
182 procedures provided for by the National Voter Registration Act of  
183 1993 and as provided in Section 23-15-152. Except as otherwise  
184 provided by Section 23-15-573, no person shall vote at any  
185 election whose name is not in the county voter roll electronically  
186 maintained by the Statewide Elections Management System.

187 (2) Except as provided in this section, and subject to the  
188 following annual limitations, the election commissioners shall be  
189 entitled to receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten  
190 Dollars (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for  
191 every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated  
192 over two (2) or more days actually employed in the performance of  
193 their duties in the conduct of an election or actually employed in  
194 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in  
195 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained





196 by the Statewide Elections Management System as required in  
197 subsection (1) of this section:

198 (a) In counties having less than fifteen thousand  
199 (15,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
200 census, not more than fifty (50) days per year, with no more than  
201 fifteen (15) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
202 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

203 (b) In counties having fifteen thousand (15,000)  
204 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
205 less than thirty thousand (30,000) residents according to the  
206 latest federal decennial census, not more than seventy-five (75)  
207 days per year, with no more than twenty-five (25) additional days  
208 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
209 occurring in any calendar year;

210 (c) In counties having thirty thousand (30,000)  
211 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
212 less than seventy thousand (70,000) residents according to the  
213 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred (100)  
214 days per year, with no more than thirty-five (35) additional days  
215 allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
216 occurring in any calendar year;

217 (d) In counties having seventy thousand (70,000)  
218 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
219 less than ninety thousand (90,000) residents according to the  
220 latest federal decennial census, not more than one hundred



221 twenty-five (125) days per year, with no more than forty-five (45)  
222 additional days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess  
223 of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

224 (e) In counties having ninety thousand (90,000)  
225 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
226 less than one hundred seventy thousand (170,000) residents  
227 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
228 one hundred fifty (150) days per year, with no more than  
229 fifty-five (55) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
230 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

231 (f) In counties having one hundred seventy thousand  
232 (170,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
233 census but less than two hundred thousand (200,000) residents  
234 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
235 one hundred seventy-five (175) days per year, with no more than  
236 sixty-five (65) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
237 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

238 (g) In counties having two hundred thousand (200,000)  
239 residents according to the latest federal decennial census but  
240 less than two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) residents  
241 according to the latest federal decennial census, not more than  
242 one hundred ninety (190) days per year, with no more than  
243 seventy-five (75) additional days allowed for the conduct of each  
244 election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;



245 (h) In counties having two hundred twenty-five thousand  
246 (225,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
247 census but less than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000)  
248 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not  
249 more than two hundred fifteen (15) days per year, with no more  
250 than eighty-five (85) additional days allowed for the conduct of  
251 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

252 (i) In counties having two hundred fifty thousand  
253 (250,000) residents according to the latest federal decennial  
254 census but less than two hundred seventy-five thousand (275,000)  
255 residents according to the latest federal decennial census, not  
256 more than two hundred thirty (30) days per year, with no more  
257 than ninety-five (95) additional days allowed for the conduct of  
258 each election in excess of one (1) occurring in any calendar year;

259 (j) In counties having two hundred seventy-five  
260 thousand (275,000) residents according to the latest federal  
261 decennial census or more, not more than two hundred forty (40)  
262 days per year, with no more than one hundred five (105) additional  
263 days allowed for the conduct of each election in excess of one (1)  
264 occurring in any calendar year.

265 (3) In addition to the number of days authorized in  
266 subsection (2) of this section, the board of supervisors of a  
267 county may authorize, in its discretion, the election  
268 commissioners to receive a per diem in the amount provided for in  
269 subsection (2) of this section, to be paid from the county general



270 fund, for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours  
271 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the  
272 performance of their duties in the conduct of an election or  
273 actually employed in the performance of their duties for the  
274 necessary time spent in the revision of the county voter roll as  
275 electronically maintained by the Statewide Elections Management  
276 System as required in subsection (1) of this section, not to  
277 exceed five (5) days.

278 (4) (a) The election commissioners shall be entitled to  
279 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars  
280 (\$110.00), to be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed  
281 ten (10) days for every day or period of no less than five (5)  
282 hours accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in  
283 the performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in  
284 the revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained  
285 by the Statewide Elections Management System before any special  
286 election. For purposes of this paragraph, the regular special  
287 election day shall not be considered a special election. The  
288 annual limitations set forth in subsection (2) of this section  
289 shall not apply to this paragraph.

290 (b) The election commissioners shall be entitled to  
291 receive a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-five Dollars  
292 (\$165.00), to be paid from the county general fund, for the  
293 performance of their duties on the day of any primary, runoff,



294 general or special election. The annual limitations set forth in  
295 subsection (2) of this section shall apply to this paragraph.

296 (5) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive  
297 a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to  
298 be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed fourteen (14)  
299 days for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours  
300 accumulated over two (2) or more days actually employed in the  
301 performance of their duties for the necessary time spent in the  
302 revision of the county voter roll as electronically maintained by  
303 the Statewide Elections Management System and in the conduct of a  
304 runoff election following either a general or special election.

305 (6) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive  
306 only one (1) per diem payment for those days when the election  
307 commissioners discharge more than one (1) duty or responsibility  
308 on the same day.

309 (7) The election commissioners shall be entitled to receive  
310 a per diem in the amount of One Hundred Ten Dollars (\$110.00), to  
311 be paid from the county general fund, not to exceed five (5) days  
312 for every day or period of no less than five (5) hours accumulated  
313 over two (2) or more days for those days when the election  
314 commissioners shall be required to conduct an audit of an election  
315 as provided in Section 23-15-615.

316 (8) In preparation for a municipal primary, runoff, general  
317 or special election, the county registrar shall generate and  
318 distribute the master voter roll and pollbooks from the Statewide



319 Elections Management System for the municipality located within  
320 the county. The municipality shall pay the county registrar for  
321 the actual cost of preparing and printing the municipal master  
322 voter roll pollbooks. A municipality may secure "read only"  
323 access to the Statewide Elections Management System and print its  
324 own pollbooks using this information.

325 (9) County election commissioners who perform the duties of  
326 an executive committee with regard to the conduct of a primary  
327 election under a written agreement authorized by law to be entered  
328 into with an executive committee shall receive per diem as  
329 provided for in subsection (2) of this section. The days that  
330 county election commissioners are employed in the conduct of a  
331 primary election shall be treated the same as days county election  
332 commissioners are employed in the conduct of other elections.

333 (10) In addition to any per diem authorized by this section,  
334 any election commissioner shall be entitled to the mileage  
335 reimbursement rate allowable to federal employees for the use of a  
336 privately owned vehicle while on official travel on election day.

337 (11) Every election commissioner shall sign personally a  
338 certification setting forth the number of hours actually worked in  
339 the performance of the commissioner's official duties and for  
340 which the commissioner seeks compensation. The certification must  
341 be on a form as prescribed in this subsection. The commissioner's  
342 signature is, as a matter of law, made under the commissioner's  
343 oath of office and under penalties of perjury.



344 The certification form shall be as follows:

345 **COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONER**

346 **PER DIEM CLAIM FORM**

347 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

348 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

349 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

350		PURPOSE	APPLICABLE	ACTUAL	PER DIEM
351	DATE	BEGINNING	ENDING	OF	MS CODE
352	WORKED	TIME	TIME	WORK	SECTION
353					
354					
355					

356 TOTAL NUMBER OF PER DIEM DAYS EARNED  
357 EXCLUDING ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_

358 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$110.00

359 TOTAL NUMBER PER DIEM DAYS EARNED  
360 FOR ELECTION DAYS \_\_\_\_\_

361 PER DIEM RATE PER DAY EARNED X \$165.00

362 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PER DIEM CLAIMED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

363 I understand that I am signing this document under my oath as  
364 an election commissioner and under penalties of perjury.

365 I understand that I am requesting payment from taxpayer funds  
366 and that I have an obligation to be specific and truthful as to  
367 the amount of hours worked and the compensation I am requesting.

368 Signed this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.



369

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner's Signature

370

371       When properly completed and signed, the certification must be  
372 filed with the clerk of the county board of supervisors before any  
373 payment may be made. The certification will be a public record  
374 available for inspection and reproduction immediately upon the  
375 oral or written request of any person.

376       Any person may contest the accuracy of the certification in  
377 any respect by notifying the chair of the commission, any member  
378 of the board of supervisors or the clerk of the board of  
379 supervisors of the contest at any time before or after payment is  
380 made. If the contest is made before payment is made, no payment  
381 shall be made as to the contested certificate until the contest is  
382 finally disposed of. The person filing the contest shall be  
383 entitled to a full hearing, and the clerk of the board of  
384 supervisors shall issue subpoenas upon request of the contestor  
385 compelling the attendance of witnesses and production of documents  
386 and things. The contestor shall have the right to appeal de novo  
387 to the circuit court of the involved county, which appeal must be  
388 perfected within thirty (30) days from a final decision of the  
389 commission, the clerk of the board of supervisors or the board of  
390 supervisors, as the case may be.

391       Any contestor who successfully contests any certification  
392 will be awarded all expenses incident to his or her contest,  
393 together with reasonable attorney's fees, which will be awarded





394 upon petition to the chancery court of the involved county upon  
395 final disposition of the contest before the election commission,  
396 board of supervisors, clerk of the board of supervisors, or, in  
397 case of an appeal, final disposition by the court. The  
398 commissioner against whom the contest is decided shall be liable  
399 for the payment of the expenses and attorney's fees, and the  
400 county shall be jointly and severally liable for same.

401 (12) Any election commissioner who has not received a  
402 certificate issued by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section  
403 23-15-211 indicating that the election commissioner has received  
404 the required elections seminar instruction and that the election  
405 commissioner is fully qualified to conduct an election, shall not  
406 receive any compensation authorized by this section or Section  
407 23-15-239.

408 **SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
409 amended as follows:

410 23-15-165. (1) The Office of the Secretary of State, in  
411 cooperation with the county registrars and election commissioners,  
412 shall procure, implement and maintain an electronic information  
413 processing system and programs capable of maintaining a  
414 centralized database of all registered voters in the state. The  
415 system shall encompass software and hardware, at both the state  
416 and county level, software development training, conversion and  
417 support and maintenance for the system. The Secretary of State  
418 shall equip the Statewide Elections Management System with



419 appropriate security measures to protect private information of  
420 the registered voter and the integrity of Mississippi elections.  
421 This system shall be known as the "Statewide Elections Management  
422 System" and shall constitute the official record of registered  
423 voters in every county of the state.

424 (2) The Office of the Secretary of State shall develop and  
425 implement the Statewide Elections Management System so that the  
426 registrar and election commissioners of each county shall:

427 (a) Verify that an applicant that is registering to  
428 vote in that county is not registered to vote in another county;

429 (b) Be notified automatically that a registered voter  
430 in its county has registered to vote in another county;

431 (c) Receive regular reports of death, changes of  
432 address and convictions for disenfranchising crimes which cause a  
433 voter to have his or her right to vote suspended that apply to  
434 voters registered in the county;

435 (d) Receive regular reports of voters who were not  
436 convicted of murder or rape and have satisfied all of the  
437 sentencing requirements of his or her conviction and automatically  
438 restore the voter's name into the Statewide Elections Management  
439 System, the state's voter roll and the county's pollbooks;

440 ( \* \* \*e) Retain all present functionality related to,  
441 but not limited to, the use of voter roll data and to implement  
442 such other functionality as the law requires to enhance the



443 maintenance of accurate county voter records and related jury  
444 selection and redistricting programs; and

445 ( \* \* \*f) When evidence exists that a registered voter  
446 may not be a citizen of the United States as provided in Section  
447 23-15-15, send notification to the registrar of the location where  
448 the person is registered to vote.

449 (3) As a part of the procurement and implementation of the  
450 system, the Office of the Secretary of State shall, with the  
451 assistance of the advisory committee, procure services necessary  
452 to convert current voter registration records in the counties into  
453 a standard, industry accepted file format that can be used on the  
454 Statewide Elections Management System. Thereafter, all official  
455 voter information shall be maintained on the Statewide Elections  
456 Management System. The standard industry accepted format of data  
457 was reviewed and approved by a majority of the advisory committee  
458 created in subsection (5) of this section after consultation with  
459 the Circuit Clerks Association and the format may not be changed  
460 without consulting the Circuit Clerks Association.

461 (4) The Secretary of State may, with the assistance of the  
462 advisory committee, adopt rules and regulations necessary to  
463 administer the Statewide Elections Management System. The rules  
464 and regulations shall at least:

465 (a) Provide for the establishment and maintenance of a  
466 centralized database for all voter registration information in the  
467 state;



468 (b) Provide procedures for integrating data into the  
469 centralized database;

470 (c) Provide security to ensure that only the registrar,  
471 or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law  
472 may require, can add information to, delete information from and  
473 modify information in the system;

474 (d) Provide the registrar or his or her designee or  
475 other appropriate official, as the law may require, access to the  
476 system at all times, including the ability to download copies of  
477 the industry standard file, for all purposes related to their  
478 official duties, including, but not limited to, exclusive access  
479 for the purpose of printing all local pollbooks;

480 (e) Provide security and protection of all information  
481 in the system and monitor the system to ensure that unauthorized  
482 access is not allowed;

483 (f) Provide a procedure that will allow the registrar,  
484 or his or her designee or other appropriate official, as the law  
485 may require, to identify the precinct to which a voter should be  
486 assigned; and

487 (g) Provide a procedure for phasing in or converting  
488 existing manual and computerized voter registration systems in  
489 counties to the Statewide Elections Management System.

490 (5) The Secretary of State established an advisory committee  
491 to assist in developing system specifications, procurement,  
492 implementation and maintenance of the Statewide Elections



493 Management System. The committee included two (2) representatives  
494 from the Circuit Clerks Association, appointed by the association;  
495 two (2) representatives from the Election Commissioners  
496 Association of Mississippi, appointed by the association; one (1)  
497 member of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, or its  
498 staff, appointed by the association; the Director of the Stennis  
499 Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, or his or  
500 her designee; the Executive Director of the Department of  
501 Information Technology Services, or his or her designee; two (2)  
502 persons knowledgeable about elections and information technology  
503 appointed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State,  
504 who shall serve as the chair of the advisory committee.

505 (6) (a) Social security numbers, telephone numbers, email  
506 addresses, and date of birth and age information in statewide,  
507 district, county and municipal voter registration files shall be  
508 exempt from and shall not be subject to inspection, examination,  
509 copying or reproduction under the Mississippi Public Records Act  
510 of 1983.

511 (b) Copies of statewide, district, county or municipal  
512 voter registration files, excluding social security numbers,  
513 telephone numbers, email addresses, and date of birth and age  
514 information, shall be provided to any person in accordance with  
515 the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 at a cost not to exceed  
516 the actual cost of production.



517           **SECTION 8.** Section 97-39-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
518 brought forward as follows:

519           97-39-3. If any person shall fight a duel, or give or accept  
520 a challenge to fight a duel, or knowingly carry or deliver such  
521 challenge or the acceptance thereof, or be second to either party  
522 to any duel, whether such act be done in the state or out of it,  
523 or who shall go out of the state to fight a duel, or to assist in  
524 the same as second, or to send, accept, or carry a challenge,  
525 shall be disqualified from holding any office, be disenfranchised,  
526 and incapable of holding or being elected to any post of honor,  
527 profit or emolument, civil or military, under the constitution and  
528 laws of this state; and the appointment of any such person to  
529 office, as also all votes given to any such person, are illegal,  
530 and none of the votes given to such person for any office shall be  
531 taken or counted.

532           **SECTION 9.** Section 99-19-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
533 brought forward as follows:

534           99-19-37. (1) Any person who has lost the right of suffrage  
535 by reason of conviction of crime and has not been pardoned  
536 therefrom, who thereafter served honorably in any branch of the  
537 Armed Forces of the United States during the periods of World War  
538 I or World War II as hereinafter defined and shall have received  
539 an honorable discharge, or release therefrom, shall by reason of  
540 such honorable service, have the full right of suffrage restored,



541 provided, however, this does not apply to any one having an  
542 unfinished or suspended sentence.

543 (2) For the purposes of this section the period of World War  
544 I shall be from April 6, 1917 to December 1, 1918, and the period  
545 of World War II shall be from December 7, 1941 to December 31,  
546 1946.

547 (3) In order to have restored, and to exercise, the right of  
548 franchise under the provisions of this section a person affected  
549 hereby shall have his discharge, or release, from the Armed Forces  
550 of the United States recorded in the office of the chancery clerk  
551 of the county in which such person desires to exercise the right  
552 of franchise and if such discharge, or release, appears to be an  
553 honorable discharge, or release, and shows such person to have  
554 served honorably during either of the periods stated in subsection  
555 (2) of this section such person shall have the full right of  
556 suffrage restored as though an act had been passed by the  
557 Legislature in accordance with Section 253 of the Constitution of  
558 the State of Mississippi restoring the right of suffrage to such  
559 person.

560 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
561 and after July 1, 2025.

