

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1544: Judicial districts; bring forward for purposes of amendment.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

26 9-7-1. A circuit judge shall be elected for and from each
27 circuit court district and the listing of individual counties and
28 precincts shall be those counties and precincts as they existed
29 on * * * July 1, * * * 2025. He may hold court in any other
30 district with the consent of the judge thereof, when in their
31 opinion the public interest may require. The terms of all circuit
32 judges hereafter elected shall begin on the first day of January
33 1931 and their terms of office shall continue for four (4) years.
34 A circuit judge shall be a resident of the district in which he or
35 she serves * * * by the date on which the person qualifies as a
36 candidate for the judicial office. A circuit judge elected from a
37 subdistrict shall not be required to be a resident of that



38 subdistrict but shall be a resident of the circuit court district
39 in which he or she seeks to serve by the date on which the person
40 qualifies as a candidate for the judicial office.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 9-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 9-7-3. (1) The state is divided into an appropriate number
44 of circuit court districts severally numbered and composed of the
45 counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be
46 styled "The Circuit Court of the County of ____" shall be held in
47 each county, and within each judicial district of a county having
48 two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be
49 held * * * on the same dates state agencies and political
50 subdivisions are open for business excluding legal holidays. The
51 dates upon which terms shall commence and the number of days for
52 which the terms shall continue in circuit court districts
53 consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by order of
54 the circuit court judge in accordance with the provisions of
55 subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past
56 a term if the interest of justice so requires.

57 (2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation
58 of terms of court for each of the counties within a circuit court
59 district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered
60 annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately
61 preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to
62 become effective. There shall be no less than four (4) weeks



63 between terms of court in any one county. Notice of the dates
64 upon which the terms of court shall commence and the number of
65 days for which the terms shall continue in each of the counties
66 within a circuit court district shall be posted in the office of
67 the circuit clerk of each county within the district and mailed to
68 the office of the Secretary of State for publication and
69 distribution to all Mississippi Bar members. If an order is not
70 timely entered, the terms of court for each of the counties within
71 any circuit court district shall remain unchanged for the next
72 calendar year. A certified copy of any order entered under the
73 provisions of this subsection shall, immediately upon the entry
74 thereof, be delivered to the clerk of the board of supervisors in
75 each of the counties within the circuit court district.

76 (3) The number of judges in each circuit court district
77 shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the following
78 criteria:

- 79 (a) The population of the district;
80 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
81 (c) The case load of each judge in the district;
82 (d) The geographic area of the district;
83 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
84 court personnel of the district; and
85 (f) Any other appropriate criteria as determined by the
86 Legislature.



87 (4) The Judicial College of the University of Mississippi
88 Law Center and the Administrative Office of Courts shall determine
89 the appropriate:

90 (a) Specific data to be collected as a basis for
91 applying the above criteria;

92 (b) Method of collecting and maintaining the specified
93 data; and

94 (c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

95 (5) In a district having more than one (1) office of circuit
96 judge, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers,
97 duties and emoluments of those offices except that the judge who
98 has been for the longest time continuously a judge of that court
99 or, should no judge have served longer in office than the others,
100 the judge who has been for the longest time a member of The
101 Mississippi Bar, shall be the senior judge. The senior judge
102 shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms
103 in districts consisting of more than one (1) county. A circuit
104 court judge shall have the right to assign criminal matters to
105 county court as provided in Section 9-9-21.

106 **SECTION 3.** Section 9-7-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
107 brought forward as follows:

108 9-7-5. The First Circuit Court District is composed of the
109 following counties:

110 (a) Alcorn County;

111 (b) Itawamba County;



- 112 (c) Lee County;
113 (d) Monroe County;
114 (e) Pontotoc County;
115 (f) Prentiss County; and
116 (g) Tishomingo County.

117 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
118 amended as follows:

119 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

120 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
121 Circuit Court District.

122 (2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
123 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
124 "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The
125 judge to fill Place One must reside in Alcorn, Prentiss or
126 Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place Three
127 must reside in Itawamba, Lee, Monroe or Pontotoc County. The
128 judge to fill Place Four may be a resident of any county in the
129 district. Election of the four (4) offices of judge shall be by
130 election to be held in every county within the First Circuit Court
131 District.

132 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
133 **follows:]**

134 9-7-7. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the First
135 Circuit Court District.



(2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four." The judge to fill Place One * * * shall be a resident of Alcorn, Prentiss or Tishomingo County. The judges to fill Place Two and Place Three * * * shall be residents of a county in the district. The judge to fill Place Four * * * shall be a resident of Itawamba, Monroe or Pontotoc County. Election of the four (4) offices of judge shall be by election to be held in every county within the First Circuit Court District.

SECTION 5. Section 9-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

9-7-9. The Second Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Hancock County;
- (b) Harrison County; and
- (c) Stone County.

SECTION 6. Section 9-7-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-7-11. (1) There shall be four (4) judges for the Second Circuit Court District.

(2) The four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place Four."



161 **SECTION 7.** Section 9-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
162 brought forward as follows:

163 9-7-13. The Third Circuit Court District is composed of the
164 following counties:

- 165 (a) Benton County;
- 166 (b) Calhoun County;
- 167 (c) Chickasaw County;
- 168 (d) Lafayette County;
- 169 (e) Marshall County;
- 170 (f) Tippah County; and
- 171 (g) Union County.

172 **SECTION 8.** Section 9-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
173 amended as follows:

174 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

175 9-7-14. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Third
176 Circuit Court District.

177 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
178 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
179 "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

180 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
181 **follows:]**

182 9-7-14. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) judges for the
183 Third Circuit Court District.

184 (2) The * * * four (4) judgeships shall be separate and
185 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election



only as "Place One," "Place Two" * * *, "Place Three * * *" and
"Place Four". The judges to fill Place One and Place Two shall be
residents of a county in the district. The judge to fill Place
Three shall be a resident of a county in the district, except for
Lafayette County. The judge to fill Place Four shall be a
resident of Lafayette County.

SECTION 9. Section 9-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
composed of the following counties:

- (a) Leflore County;
- (b) Sunflower County; and
- (c) Washington County.

(2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
four (4) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of the following
precincts in the following counties:

(i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood* Minter
City, Money, North Greenwood, * * * Northeast Greenwood, Schlater,
West Greenwood, Mississippi Valley State University and Southeast
Greenwood Precincts; and

(ii) Sunflower County: Ruleville, Rome, Sunflower
Plantation, Drew, Doddsville, Boyer-Linn, Fairview-Hale and
Ruleville North Precincts.



211 (b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of the following
212 precincts in the following counties:

213 (i) Leflore County: Central Greenwood*, East
214 Greenwood, Morgan City/Swiftown, North Itta Bena, Rising Sun,
215 Sidon, South Greenwood, South Itta Bena, Southwest Greenwood and
216 West Greenwood*;

217 (* * *ii) Sunflower County: * * * Sunflower,
218 Indianola 3 North, Indianola 3 South, Indianola Southeast and
219 Indianola 3 Northeast Precincts; and

220 (* * *iii) Washington County: Darlove Baptist
221 Church*, Extension Building, * * * Lake Vista Masonic Lodge,
222 Metcalfe City Hall, Elks Club, Leland Rotary Club, Leland Health
223 Department Clinic * * *.

224 (c) Subdistrict 4-3 shall consist of the following
225 precincts in the following counties:

226 * * *

227 (* * *i) Sunflower County: Moorhead, Inverness,
228 Indianola 2 West and Indianola 2 East Precincts; and

229 (* * *ii) Washington County: Arcola * * *
230 Technology Center*, Hollandale City Hall * * * and Darlove Baptist
231 Church* * * *.

232 (d) Subdistrict 4-4 shall consist of the following
233 precincts in Washington County: Arcola Technology Center*, St.
234 James Episcopal Church*, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Glen Allan
235 Health Clinic, * * * Elks Club*, Ward's Recreation Center, Buster



Brown Community Center, * * * Covenant Presbyterian, Jakes Chapel
M.B. Church*, Brent Center, * * * Tampa Drive and * * * Washington
County Convention Center Precincts.

(3) The local contributions required for the maintenance of
the Fourth Circuit Court District shall be paid on a pro rata
basis each by Leflore, Sunflower and Washington Counties.

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-15. (1) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be
composed of the following counties:

(a) Holmes County;

(b) Humphreys County;

(* * * c) Leflore County;

(* * * d) Sunflower County; and

(* * * e) Washington County.

(2) The Fourth Circuit Court District shall be divided into
four (4) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 4-1 shall consist of * * * Washington
and Sunflower Counties.

(b) Subdistrict 4-2 shall consist of * * * Leflore,
Holmes and Humphreys Counties.

* * *

SECTION 10. Section 9-7-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]



9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the Fourth Circuit Court District. One (1) circuit judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-17. There shall be four (4) circuit judges for the Fourth Circuit Court District. * * * Two (2) circuit judges shall be elected from each subdistrict. The judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated only as "Subdistrict 4-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 4-1, Place Two", "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Three" and "Subdistrict 4-2, Place Four".

SECTION 11. Section 9-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

9-7-19. The Fifth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Attala County;
- (b) Carroll County;
- (c) Choctaw County;
- (d) Grenada County;
- (e) Montgomery County;
- (f) Webster County; and
- (g) Winston County.

SECTION 12. Section 9-7-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:



9-7-20. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fifth Circuit Court District.

(2) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

SECTION 13. Section 9-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Adams County;
- (b) Amite County;
- (c) Franklin County; and
- (d) Wilkinson County.

(2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 6-1 shall consist of Wilkinson County and the following precincts in the following counties:

(i) Adams County: Airport, By-Pass Fire Station, Carpenter, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Foster Mound, Maryland*, Northside School, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*; and

(ii) Amite County: Ariel, Berwick, Crosby, East Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*, Homochitto, South Liberty* and Street.



310 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County
311 and the following precincts in the following counties:

312 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
313 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
314 Park, Maryland*, Morgantown, Oakland, Palestine and Washington*;
315 and

316 (ii) Amite County: Amite River, East Fork, East
317 Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion, Oneil,
318 Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw, Walls
319 and Zion Hills.

320 (3) There shall be two (2) judges for the Sixth Circuit
321 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
322 distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each subdistrict.

323 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
324 **follows:]**

325 9-7-21. (1) The Sixth Circuit Court District is composed of
326 the following counties:

327 (a) Adams County;

328 (b) Amite County;

329 (c) Franklin County; * * *

330 (d) Pike County; and

331 (* * *e) Wilkinson County.

332 (2) The Sixth Circuit Court District shall be divided
333 into * * * three (3) subdistricts as follows:



334 (a) Subdistrict 6-1 shall consist of Wilkinson County
335 and the following precincts in the following counties:

336 (i) Adams County: Airport, Bellemont*, By-Pass
337 Fire Station, Carpenter, Concord*, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*,
338 Foster Mound, * * * Northside School, Pine Ridge * * * and
339 Washington*; and

340 (ii) Amite County: Amite River*, Ariel, Berwick*,
341 Crosby, East Centreville, East Gloster*, Gloster*,
342 Homochitto * * * and Vance Park*.

343 (b) Subdistrict 6-2 shall consist of Franklin County
344 and the following precincts in the following counties:

345 (i) Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont, Concord*,
346 Convention Center, Courthouse*, Duncan Park*, Kingston, Liberty
347 Park, Maryland * * *, Morgantown, Oakland, Palestine and
348 Washington*; and

349 (ii) Amite County: Amite River*, Berwick*, East
350 Fork, East Gloster*, East Liberty, Gloster*, Liberty, New Zion,
351 Oneil, Riceville, Smithdale, South Liberty*, Tangipahoa, Tickfaw,
352 Vance Park*, Walls and Zion Hills.

353 (c) Subdistrict 6-3 shall consist of Pike County.

354 (3) There shall be * * * three (3) judges for the Sixth
355 Circuit Court District. The * * * three (3) judgeships shall be
356 separate and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
357 subdistrict.



SECTION 14. Section 9-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be Hinds County.

(2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into four (4) subdistricts in Hinds County as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: * * * 32^{*}, * * * 44, 45, 46, 47^{*}, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.

(b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 11^{*}, 12^{*}, 13^{*}, * * * 16^{*}, * * * 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, * * * 38, 39^{*}, 40, 41, 42^{*}, 43^{*}, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

(c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 49^{*}, 50, 51^{*}, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58^{*}, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63^{*}, 64^{*}, * * * 67, 68, 69, 70^{*}, 71, 86 * * * and 89 * * *.

(d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove, Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2, Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.



(e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of all precincts located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District as described by Section 29-5-203.

[From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-23. (1) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be Claiborne, Hinds * * * and Jefferson County.

(2) The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be divided into * * * six (6) subdistricts * * * as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: * * * 32*, * * * 44, 45, 46, 47*, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92, 93, 96 and 97.

(b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 11*, 12*, 13*, * * * 16*, * * * 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, * * * 38, 39*, 40, 41, 42*, 43*, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

(c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 49*, 50, 51*, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58*, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63*, 64*, * * * 67, 68, 69, 70*, 71, 86 * * * and 89 * * *.

(d) Subdistrict 7-4 shall consist of the following precincts in Hinds County: 87, 88, 90, 91, 94, 95, Bolton, Byram 1, Byram 2, Byram 3, Cayuga, Chapel Hill, Clinton 1, Clinton 2, Clinton 3, Clinton 4, Clinton 5, Clinton 6, Clinton 7, Dry Grove,



Edwards, Learned, Old Byram, Pinehaven, Raymond 1, Raymond 2,
Spring Ridge, St. Thomas, Terry 1, Terry 2, Utica 1 and Utica 2.

(e) Subdistrict 7-5 shall consist of Claiborne and
Jefferson County.

(f) Subdistrict 7-6 shall consist of all precincts
located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
District as the lines are described in Section 29-5-203 on July 1,
2025.

**[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as
follows:]**

9-7-23. * * * The Seventh Circuit Court District * * * is
composed of the following counties:

(a) Claiborne County;

(b) Hinds County; and

(c) Jefferson County.

* * *

SECTION 15. Section 9-7-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) circuit judges
for the Seventh Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be
elected from each subdistrict.

(2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
powers and duties of the said judges other than as cast upon them
by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the First



431 Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the senior
432 circuit judge, may be divided into civil and criminal divisions as
433 a matter of convenience, by the entry of an order upon the minutes
434 of the court.

435 [From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2031, this section
436 shall read as follows:]

437 9-7-25. * * * There shall be * * * six (6) circuit judges
438 for the Seventh Circuit Court District. The judgeships shall be
439 separate and distinct. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
440 subdistrict.

441 * * *

442 [From January 1, 2031, until January 1, 2035, this section
443 shall read as follows:]

444 9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * six (6) circuit judges for
445 the Seventh Circuit Court District. * * * The judgeships shall be
446 separate and distinct.

447 (2) * * * The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
448 divided into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

449 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County;

450 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and
451 Jefferson Counties; and

452 (c) Subdistrict 7-3 shall consist of all precincts
453 located within the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement
454 District as described in Section 29-5-203.



455 (3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1.
456 The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct
457 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
458 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two",
459 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four".
460 For subdistricts 7-2 and 7-3, one (1) judge shall be elected from
461 each subdistrict.

462 **[From and after January 1, 2035, this section shall read as**
463 **follows:]**

464 9-7-25. (1) There shall be * * * five (5) circuit judges
465 for the Seventh Circuit Court District. * * * The judgeships
466 shall be separate and distinct.

467 (2) * * * The Seventh Circuit Court District shall be
468 divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

469 (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Hinds County; and
470 (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Claiborne and
471 Jefferson Counties.

472 (3) Four (4) judges shall be elected from subdistrict 7-1.
473 The judgeships for subdistrict 7-1 shall be separate and distinct
474 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
475 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place One", "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Two",
476 "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Three", and "Subdistrict 7-1, Place Four".
477 One (1) judge shall be elected from subdistrict 7-2.

478 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-7-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
479 brought forward as follows:



9-7-27. (1) The Eighth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Leake County;
- (b) Neshoba County;
- (c) Newton County; and
- (d) Scott County.

(2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighth Circuit Court District.

(3) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

SECTION 17. Section 9-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Issaquena County;
- (b) Sharkey County; and
- (c) Warren County.

(2) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County, Sharkey County and the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove*,



Kings*, Number 7 Fire Station*, St. Aloysius and Vicksburg Junior High School*.

(b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of the following precincts in Warren County: 3-61 Store*, Beechwood, Bovina, Cedar Grove*, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Jett, Kings*, Moose Lodge, Number 7 Fire Station*, Oak Ridge, Plumbers Hall, Redwood, Tingleville, Vicksburg Junior High School*, YMCA and Yokena.

[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-29. (1) The Ninth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Issaquena County;
- (b) Sharkey County;
- (c) Warren County; and
- (d) Yazoo County.

(2) The Ninth Circuit Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of Issaquena County and Sharkey County, and the following precincts in the following counties:

(i) Warren County: American Legion Hall, Auditorium, Brunswick, Cedar Grove, Cherry Street, Jett, Kings, Number 7 Fire Station and St. Aloysius; and

(ii) Yazoo County: 3-1 West, 3-2 East, 3-3 Jonestown, Holly Bluff, Lake City, Ward 4, and Ward 5.



529 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of:

530 (i) The following precincts in Warren County:

531 3-61 Store, Beechwood, Bovina, Culkin, Elks Lodge, Goodrum, Lee
532 Road, Moose Lodge, Oakland, Plumbers Hall, Redwood, Tingleville,
533 YMCA and Yokena; and

534 (ii) The following precincts in Yazoo County: 3-4

535 South, Benton, Carter, Center Ridge, Deasonville, District 4 Ward
536 2, Dover, East Bentonia, East Midway, Eden, Fairview, Free Run,
537 Fugates, Harttown, Mechanicsburg, Robinette, Satartia, Tinsley,
538 Valley, Ward 2, West Bentonia, West Midway and Zion.

539 **SECTION 18.** Section 9-7-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
540 amended as follows:

541 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

542 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
543 following counties:

- 544 (a) Clarke County;
- 545 (b) Kemper County;
- 546 (c) Lauderdale County; and
- 547 (d) Wayne County.

548 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
549 **follows:]**

550 9-7-31. The Tenth Circuit Court District is composed of the
551 following counties:

- 552 (a) Clarke County;
- 553 (b) Kemper County; and



554 (c) Lauderdale County * * *.

555 * * *

556 **SECTION 19.** Section 9-7-32, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
557 brought forward as follows:

558 9-7-32. (1) There shall be two (2) judges for the Tenth
559 Circuit Court District.

560 (2) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
561 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
562 "Place One" and "Place Two."

563 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-7-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
564 amended as follows:

565 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

566 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
567 of the following counties:

- 568 (a) Bolivar County;
569 (b) Coahoma County;
570 (c) Quitman County; and
571 (d) Tunica County.

572 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
573 into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

574 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of the following
575 precincts from the following counties:

576 (i) Bolivar County: Benoit, Beulah, Boyle*,
577 Choctaw, Cleveland Courthouse, East Central Cleveland*, East
578 Cleveland*, East Rosedale, * * * Longshot, North Cleveland,



579 Northwest Cleveland*, Pace*, Round Lake Gunnison Deeson, Scott,
580 Shaw, Skene, South Cleveland*, Stringtown, West Central Cleveland,
581 West Cleveland and West Rosedale; and

582 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo*, Clarksdale 2 * * **,
583 Clarksdale 5 * * **, Farrell* * * * and Rena Lara * * *.

584 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of the following
585 precincts from the following counties:

586 (i) Bolivar County: Boyle*, Cleveland Eastgate,
587 Duncan/Alligator, East Central Cleveland*, East Cleveland*,
588 Merigold, Mound Bayou, Northwest Cleveland*, Pace*, Renova, Round
589 Lake Gunnison Deeson*, Shelby, * * * and Winstonville;

590 (ii) Coahoma County: Bobo*, Cagle Crossing,
591 Clarksdale * * * 3, Clarksdale * * * 4, Clarksdale * * * 4 North,
592 Clarksdale * * * 5*, Clarksdale * * * Courthouse*, Dublin * * *,
593 Roundaway and Sasse St. Fire Station; and

594 (iii) Quitman County: * * * Crowder*,
595 Lambert, * * * Southwest Marks* and West Lambert.

596 (c) Subdistricts 11-3 shall consist of Tunica County
597 and the following precincts in the following counties:

598 (i) Coahoma County: Clarksdale * * * 2*,
599 Clarksdale * * * 5*, * * * Clarksdale Courthouse*, Coahoma,
600 Farrell*, Friar's Point, Jonestown, Lula * * * and Lyons * * *;
601 and



602 (ii) Quitman County: * * * Crenshaw, Crowder*,
603 Darling, District 3 North, District 3 South * * *, Northwest
604 Marks, * * * Sledge and Southwest Marks.

605 [From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as
606 follows:]

607 9-7-33. (1) The Eleventh Circuit Court District is composed
608 of the following counties:

- 609 (a) Bolivar County;
610 (b) Coahoma County;
611 (c) Quitman County; and
612 (d) Tunica County.

613 (2) The Eleventh Circuit Court District shall be divided
614 into * * * two (2) subdistricts as follows:

615 (a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of * * * Bolivar
616 County.

617 (b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of * * * Coahoma,
618 Quitman and Tunica Counties.

619 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-7-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
620 brought forward as follows:

621 9-7-34. There shall be three (3) judges for the Eleventh
622 Circuit Court District. One (1) judge shall be elected from each
623 subdistrict.

624 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-7-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
625 amended as follows:



626 9-7-35. (1) The Twelfth Circuit Court District is composed
627 of the following counties:

628 (a) Forrest County; and

629 (b) Perry County.

630 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Twelfth Circuit
631 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
632 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
633 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

634 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-7-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
635 amended as follows:

636 9-7-37. (1) The Thirteenth Circuit Court District is
637 composed of the following counties:

638 (a) Covington County;

639 (b) Jasper County;

640 (c) Simpson County; and

641 (d) Smith County.

642 (2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Thirteenth Circuit
643 Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
644 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
645 only as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

646 **SECTION 24.** Section 9-7-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
647 amended as follows:

648 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

649 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
650 composed of the following counties:



651 (a) Lincoln County;
652 (b) Pike County; and
653 (c) Walthall County.

654 (2) (a) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth
655 Circuit Court District.

656 (b) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
657 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
658 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

659 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
660 **follows:]**

661 9-7-39. (1) The Fourteenth Circuit Court District is
662 composed of the following counties:

663 (a) * * * Copiah County;
664 (b) * * * Jefferson Davis County; * * *
665 (c) * * * Lawrence County * * * ; and
666 (d) Lincoln County.

667 (2) (a) There shall be two (2) judges for the Fourteenth
668 Circuit Court District.

669 (b) The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and
670 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
671 only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

672 **SECTION 25.** Section 9-7-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
673 amended as follows:

674 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**



675 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is
676 composed of the following counties:

677 (a) Jefferson Davis County;

678 (b) Lamar County;

679 (c) Lawrence County;

680 (d) Marion County; and

681 (e) Pearl River County.

682 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
683 **follows:]**

684 9-7-41. The Fifteenth Circuit Court District is composed of
685 the following counties:

686 * * *

687 (* * *a) Lamar County;

688 * * *

689 (* * *b) Marion County; * * *

690 (* * *c) Pearl River County * * *; and

691 (d) Walthall County.

692 **SECTION 26.** Section 9-7-42, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
693 amended as follows:

694 **[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]**

695 9-7-42. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
696 Fifteenth Circuit Court District.

697 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
698 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
699 "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", and "Place Three * * *".



The judge to fill Place One must be a resident of Jefferson Davis, Lamar, Lawrence or Marion County. The judge to fill Place Two may be a resident of any county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three must be a resident of Pearl River County.

[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

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

(2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two * * *", and "Place Three." The judge to fill Place One * * * shall be a resident of * * * Lamar * * * County. The judge to fill Place Two * * * shall be a resident of * * * a county in the district. The judge to fill Place Three * * * shall be a resident of Pearl River County.

SECTION 27. Section 9-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

9-7-43. The Sixteenth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Clay County;
- (b) Lowndes County;
- (c) Noxubee County; and
- (d) Oktibbeha County.

SECTION 28. Section 9-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:



9-7-44. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

(2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One * * *", "Place Two" and "Place Three * * *". The judge to fill Place One must be a resident of Lowndes County. The judge to fill Place Two must be a resident of Oktibbeha County. The judge to fill Place Three must be a resident of either Clay or Noxubee County. Election of the three (3) offices of judge shall be by election to be held in every county within the Sixteenth Circuit Court District.

SECTION 29. Section 9-7-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

9-7-45. The Seventeenth Circuit Court District shall be composed of the following counties:

- (a) Panola County;
- (b) Tallahatchie County;
- (c) Tate County; and
- (d) Yalobusha County.

SECTION 30. Section 9-7-46, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-7-46. (1) There shall be two (2) circuit judges for the Seventeenth Circuit Court District.



(2) For the purpose of appointment and election, the two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct, and be denominated as "Place One" and "Place Two * * *".

SECTION 31. Section 9-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-47. The Eighteenth Circuit Court District shall be Jones County.

[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-47. (1) The Eighteenth Circuit Court District * * * is composed of the following counties:

(a) George County;

(b) Greene County;

(c) Jones County; and

(d) Wayne County.

(2) There shall be two (2) judges for the Eighteenth Circuit Court District. The two (2) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two". The judge to fill Place One shall be a resident of Jones County. The judge to fill Place Two shall be a resident of George, Greene or Wayne County.

SECTION 32. Section 9-7-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]



9-7-49. (1) The Nineteenth Circuit Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) George County;
- (b) Greene County; and
- (c) Jackson County.

(2) The local contribution required for the maintenance of the Nineteenth Circuit Court District shall not exceed, as to George and Greene Counties, the amount of their present local contribution in their present respective circuit court districts, and any excess shall be paid by Jackson County.

[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-49. * * * The Nineteenth Circuit Court District * * * shall be composed of * * * Jackson County.

* * *

SECTION 33. Section 9-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-51. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the Nineteenth Circuit Court District. The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

(2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court District may divide the court of any county within the district



798 into civil, criminal and appellate court divisions as a matter of
799 convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of the
800 court.

801 **[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as**
802 **follows]:**

803 9-7-51. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) judges for the
804 Nineteenth Circuit Court District. The * * * four (4) judgeships
805 shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of
806 appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" * * *,
807 "Place Three * * *" and "Place Four" with one of the four (4)
808 places, to be dedicated to intervention court and to have at least
809 seventy-five percent (75%) of the cases on its docket drug court
810 eligible cases.

811 (2) The senior judge of the Nineteenth Circuit Court
812 District may divide the court * * * into civil, criminal and
813 appellate court divisions as a matter of convenience by the entry
814 of an order upon the minutes of the court. The senior judge shall
815 designate which place is to operate as intervention court and
816 assign the court's cases accordingly to ensure its operation.

817 **SECTION 34.** Section 9-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
818 brought forward as follows:

819 9-7-53. The Twentieth Circuit Court District is composed of
820 the following counties:

- 821 (a) Madison County; and
822 (b) Rankin County.



823 **SECTION 35.** Section 9-7-54, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
824 amended as follows:

825 9-7-54. (1) There shall be three (3) judges for the
826 Twentieth Circuit Court District.

827 (2) The three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct
828 and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as
829 "Place One * * *", "Place Two", and "Place Three * * *". The
830 judge to fill Place One must reside in Rankin County, the judge to
831 fill Place Two must reside in Madison County, and the judge to
832 fill Place Three may reside in either Madison or Rankin County.

833 **SECTION 36.** Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
834 amended as follows:

835 **[Until January 1, 2031, this section shall read as follows:]**

836 9-7-55. The * * * Twenty-second Circuit Court District is
837 composed of the following counties:

- 838 (a) Holmes County;
839 (b) Humphreys County; and
840 (c) Yazoo County.

841 **[From and after January 1, 2031, this section shall read as**
842 **follows:]**

843 Section 9-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides for
844 the Twenty-second Circuit Court District shall stand repealed on
845 and after January 1, 2031.

846 **SECTION 37.** Section 9-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
847 amended as follows:



[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-57. The * * * Twenty-third Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Claiborne County;
- (b) Copiah County; and
- (c) Jefferson County.

[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

Section 9-7-57, which creates the Twenty-third Circuit Court District shall stand repealed on and after January 1, 2027.

SECTION 38. Section 9-7-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-7-63. The * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District shall be composed of DeSoto County.

SECTION 39. Section 9-7-64, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

9-7-64. (1) There shall be * * * three (3) circuit judges for the * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District.

(2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the * * * three (3) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two" * * * and "Place Three". The judges to fill Place One, Place Two and Place Three shall be residents of DeSoto County.



872 [From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as
873 follows:]

874 9-7-64. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) circuit judges
875 for the * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court District.

876 (2) For the purposes of appointment and election, the * * *
877 four (4) judgeships shall be separate and distinct and denominated
878 as "Place One" * * *, "Place Two * * *", "Place Three" and "Place
879 Four". The judges to fill Place One, Place Two and Place Three
880 shall be elected from within the district. Place Four shall be a
881 subdistrict denominated as 21-1. The judge to fill Place Four
882 shall be elected from the following precincts in DeSoto County:
883 Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East, Horn Lake High School*, Horn
884 Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake North, Horn Lake West,
885 Northwest Community College*, Southhaven South and Southhaven
886 West*.

887 **SECTION 40.** Section 25-31-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
888 amended forward as follows:

889 25-31-5. (1) The following number of full-time legal
890 assistants are authorized in the following circuit court
891 districts:

892 (a) First Circuit Court District..... ten (10)
893 legal assistants.

894 (b) Second Circuit Court District..... eleven (11)
895 legal assistants.



896 (c) Third Circuit Court District..... six (6)
897 legal assistants.

898 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....six (6)
899 legal assistants.

900 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
901 legal assistants.

902 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District..... three (3)
903 legal assistants.

904 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District..... * * *
905 fourteen (14) legal assistants. * * *

906 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
907 legal assistants.

908 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....three (3)
909 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Ninth Circuit
910 Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants.

911 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District..... five (5)
912 legal assistants.

913 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....five (5)
914 legal assistants.

915 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....five (5)
916 legal assistants.

917 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....four (4)
918 legal assistants.

919 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District..... * * *
920 five (5) legal assistants.



921 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
922 legal assistants.

923 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District..... six (6)
924 legal assistants.

925 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District..... four (4)
926 legal assistants.

927 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
928 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Eighteenth
929 Circuit Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants.

930 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
931 legal assistants.

932 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... seven (7)
933 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Twentieth
934 Circuit Court District shall have ten (10) legal assistants.

935 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District..... four (4)
936 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Twenty-first
937 Circuit Court District shall have seven (7) legal assistants.

938 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District..... three (3)
939 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, the Twenty-second
940 Circuit Court District shall have four (4) legal assistants. From
941 and after January 1, 2031, this paragraph (v) shall stand
942 repealed.

943 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District five (5)
944 legal assistants. Effective January 1, 2027, this paragraph (w)
945 shall stand repealed.



946 (2) In addition to any legal assistants authorized pursuant
947 to subsection (1) of this section, the following number of
948 full-time legal assistants are authorized (i) in the following
949 circuit court districts if funds are appropriated by the
950 Legislature to adequately fund the salaries, expenses and fringe
951 benefits of such legal assistants, or (ii) in any of the following
952 circuit court districts in which the board of supervisors of one
953 or more of the counties in a circuit court district adopts a
954 resolution to pay all of the salaries, supplemental pay, expenses
955 and fringe benefits of legal assistants authorized in such
956 district pursuant to this subsection:

957 (a) First Circuit Court District.....two (2)
958 legal assistants.

959 (b) Second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
960 legal assistants.

961 (c) Third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
962 legal assistants.

963 (d) Fourth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
964 legal assistants.

965 (e) Fifth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
966 legal assistants.

967 (f) Sixth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
968 legal assistants.

969 (g) Seventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
970 legal assistants.



971 (h) Eighth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
972 legal assistants.
973 (i) Ninth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
974 legal assistants.
975 (j) Tenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
976 legal assistants.
977 (k) Eleventh Circuit Court District.....two (2)
978 legal assistants.
979 (l) Twelfth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
980 legal assistants.
981 (m) Thirteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
982 legal assistants.
983 (n) Fourteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
984 legal assistants.
985 (o) Fifteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
986 legal assistants.
987 (p) Sixteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
988 legal assistants.
989 (q) Seventeenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
990 legal assistants.
991 (r) Eighteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
992 legal assistants.
993 (s) Nineteenth Circuit Court District.....two (2)
994 legal assistants.



995 (t) Twentieth Circuit Court District..... * * *
996 five (5) legal assistants.

997 (u) Twenty-first Circuit Court District.....two (2)
998 legal assistants.

999 (v) Twenty-second Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1000 legal assistants. From and after January 1, 2031, this paragraph
1001 (v) shall stand repealed.

1002 (w) Twenty-third Circuit Court District.....two (2)
1003 legal assistants. From and after January 1, 2027, this paragraph
1004 (w) shall stand repealed.

1005 (3) The board of supervisors of any county may pay all or a
1006 part of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits
1007 of any district attorney or legal assistant authorized in the
1008 circuit court district to which such county belongs pursuant to
1009 this section.

1010 (4) The district attorney of any circuit court district may
1011 employ additional legal assistants or criminal investigators, or
1012 both, without regard to any limitation on the number of legal
1013 assistants authorized in this section or criminal investigators
1014 authorized by other provisions of law to the extent that the
1015 district attorney's office receives funds from any source. Any
1016 source shall include, but is not limited to, office generated
1017 funds, funds from a county, a combination of counties, a
1018 municipality, a combination of municipalities, federal funds,
1019 private grants or foundations, or by means of an Interlocal



Cooperative Agreement authorized by Section 17-13-1 which may be expended for those positions in an amount sufficient to pay all of the salary, supplemental pay, expenses and fringe benefits of the positions. Such funds may either be paid out of district attorney accounts, transferred by the district attorney to the Department of Finance and Administration or to one or more of the separate counties comprising the circuit court district, and the funds shall be disbursed to such employees in the same manner as state-funded criminal investigators and full-time legal assistants. The district attorney shall report to the board of supervisors of each county comprising the circuit court district the amount and source of the supplemental salary, expenses and fringe benefits, and the board in each county shall spread the same on its minutes. The district attorney shall also report such information to the Department of Finance and Administration which shall make such information available to the Legislative Budget Office.

(5) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the duties of a legal assistant regardless of the source of funding for such legal assistants.

SECTION 41. Section 25-31-10, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

[Until January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time criminal investigator.



1045 (2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth,
1046 Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth,
1047 Seventeenth, Twentieth and * * * Twenty-third Circuit Court
1048 Districts may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
1049 investigator for a total of two (2) full-time criminal
1050 investigators.

1051 (3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third,
1052 Fourth, Nineteenth and * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court Districts
1053 may appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal investigators
1054 for a total of three (3) full-time criminal investigators.

1055 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
1056 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
1057 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
1058 investigators.

1059 (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1060 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1061 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1062 (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties
1063 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than
1064 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be
1065 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon
1066 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal
1067 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid
1068 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary
1069 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law



degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal assistant to a district attorney.

(7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the funds of the appropriate district attorney.

(8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of funding for such criminal investigators.

[From and after January 1, 2027, this section shall read as follows:]

25-31-10. (1) Any district attorney may appoint a full-time criminal investigator.

(2) The district attorneys of the Fifth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Twentieth * * * Circuit Court Districts may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal investigator for a total of two (2) full-time criminal investigators.

(3) The district attorneys of the First, Second, Third, Fourth * * *, Nineteenth and * * * Twenty-first Circuit Court Districts may appoint two (2) additional full-time criminal



1094 investigators for a total of three (3) full-time criminal
1095 investigators.

1096 (4) The district attorney of the Seventh Circuit Court
1097 District may appoint one (1) additional full-time criminal
1098 investigator for a total of four (4) full-time criminal
1099 investigators.

1100 (5) No district attorney or assistant district attorney
1101 shall accept any private employment, civil or criminal, in any
1102 matter investigated by such criminal investigators.

1103 (6) The full and complete compensation for all public duties
1104 rendered by the criminal investigators shall be not more than
1105 Sixty-three Thousand Dollars (\$63,000.00) per annum, to be
1106 determined at the discretion of the district attorney based upon
1107 the qualifications, education and experience of the criminal
1108 investigator, plus necessary travel and other expenses, to be paid
1109 in accordance with Section 25-31-8. However, the maximum salary
1110 under this subsection for a criminal investigator who has a law
1111 degree may be supplemented by the district attorney from other
1112 available funds, but not to exceed the maximum salary for a legal
1113 assistant to a district attorney.

1114 (7) Any criminal investigator may be designated by the
1115 district attorney to attend the Law Enforcement Officers Training
1116 Program set forth in Section 45-6-1 et seq. The total expenses
1117 associated with attendance by criminal investigators at the Law



1118 Enforcement Officers Training Program shall be paid out of the
1119 funds of the appropriate district attorney.

1120 (8) The district attorney shall be authorized to assign the
1121 duties of criminal investigators regardless of the source of
1122 funding for such criminal investigators.

1123 **SECTION 42.** Section 99-36-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
1124 brought forward as follows:

1125 99-36-7. (1) (a) In addition to the full-time legal
1126 assistants to the district attorney authorized by Section 25-31-5,
1127 the district attorney in each circuit court district in this state
1128 shall, subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1129 circuit court judge of the district, employ one (1) person to
1130 serve at the will and pleasure of the district attorney as a
1131 "victim assistance coordinator" who shall not be considered to be
1132 a state employee.

1133 (b) The District Attorney of the First Circuit Court
1134 District may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance
1135 coordinator, and the District Attorney of the Fourteenth Circuit
1136 Court District, upon the approval of the boards of supervisors,
1137 may appoint one (1) additional victim assistance coordinator,
1138 subject to the approval of and upon the order of the senior
1139 circuit court judge of the applicable district for a total of two
1140 (2) victim assistance coordinators per district.

1141 (2) The duty of the victim assistance coordinator is to
1142 ensure that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a



1143 deceased victim is afforded the rights granted victims, guardians
1144 and relatives by Section 99-36-5. The victim assistance
1145 coordinator shall work closely with appropriate law enforcement
1146 agencies, prosecuting attorneys, the state and the judiciary in
1147 fulfilling that duty.

1148 (3) The salary of the victim assistance coordinator shall
1149 not exceed the salary authorized for criminal investigators in
1150 Section 25-31-10, and shall be paid jointly by the counties
1151 comprising the circuit court district, with each county paying a
1152 pro rata share of the salary as determined by the senior circuit
1153 court judge.

1154 (4) The board of supervisors of any county, with the
1155 approval of and upon the order of the senior circuit court judge
1156 of the district wherein such county lies, may, in addition to any
1157 victim assistance coordinator provided for in subsection (1) of
1158 this section, create the position of county victim assistance
1159 coordinator. The duty of the county victim assistance coordinator
1160 shall be to cooperate with local law enforcement agencies, the
1161 county attorney and the district attorney in assuring that a
1162 victim, guardian or close relative is afforded the rights granted
1163 by Section 99-36-5. Two (2) or more counties, by action of their
1164 respective boards of supervisors, with the approval of and upon
1165 the order of the senior circuit court judge of the district
1166 wherein such counties lie, may join in establishing and
1167 maintaining the position of victim assistance coordinator to serve



1168 these counties. Any municipality, by action of its governing
1169 authority, may participate in the establishment and maintenance of
1170 a county victim assistance coordinator's office located within the
1171 municipality.

1172 (5) Any district attorney, county board of supervisors or
1173 governing authority of a municipality which has established or is
1174 participating in the maintenance of an office of victim assistance
1175 coordinator may apply through the Governor's Office of State and
1176 Federal Programs for a grant under the federal "Victims of Crimes
1177 Act of 1984" (Public Law 98-473) to be used in the continued
1178 operation of the victim assistance program.

1179 **SECTION 43.** (1) (a) A special election shall be held to
1180 fill the office of circuit judge created in Subdistrict 7-5 in the
1181 Seventh Circuit Court District. The special election shall be
1182 held on the first Tuesday in November, 2025. Candidates shall
1183 file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and shall run for office
1184 and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through
1185 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act.
1186 The judge elected shall serve until January 1, 2027, unless such
1187 person is re-elected to fill the office during the November, 2026,
1188 election for judicial offices. The terms of those offices shall
1189 thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges generally.

1190 (b) A special election shall be held to fill the office
1191 of circuit judge for the Twenty-first Circuit Court District. The
1192 special election shall be held on the first Tuesday in November,



1193 2025. Candidates shall file as provided in Section 23-15-977, and
1194 shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections
1195 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan
1196 Judicial Election Act. The judge elected shall serve until January
1197 1, 2027, unless the person is re-elected to fill such office in the
1198 November, 2026, election for judicial offices. The terms of those
1199 offices shall thereafter be as provided by law for circuit judges
1200 generally.

1201 (2) Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit
1202 judgeships that begin January 1, 2027, shall run for those offices
1203 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in
1204 November 2026. Candidates for the chancellorships and the circuit
1205 judgeships that begin January 1, 2031, shall run for those offices
1206 in the general election for judicial officers to be conducted in
1207 November 2030. Candidates shall file as provided in Section
1208 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in
1209 Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the
1210 Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judges elected shall serve
1211 four-year terms to begin January 1, 2027, and/or January 1, 2031,
1212 as applicable and the terms of those offices shall thereafter be
1213 as provided for chancellors and circuit judges generally.

1214 (3) (a) From January 1, 2027, until January 1, 2028, the
1215 District Attorney for the Twenty-third District shall become the
1216 Chief Assistant District Attorney for the Seventh Circuit Court
1217 District. In addition to the responsibilities of the District



Attorney as otherwise provided by law, the Chief Assistant District Attorney shall be responsible for ensuring the orderly transition of all administrative and prosecutorial functions of the former Twenty-third Circuit Court District. The salary of the Chief Assistant District Attorney shall be the same as the District Attorney for the Seventh Circuit Court District.

(b) The term of office for the District Attorney for the Twenty-second Circuit Court District elected in the November 2027, general election for statewide officers shall be three (3) years, beginning January 1, 2028, and ending January 1, 2031, upon the dissolution of the Twenty-second Circuit Court District.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary regarding the residency requirements for the Office of District Attorney, the person serving as district attorney for any circuit court district in which the composition of the counties within the district is changed by virtue of this act, shall remain the district attorney for the same numerical district that he or she represented before the revision of the district by virtue of this act. Such person shall serve as district attorney until the next general election for the Office of District Attorney occurs, at which time, he or she may qualify as a candidate for the judicial district for which he or she otherwise meets the residency requirements and all other statutory requirements to qualify for such office. For purposes of this section, the phrase "next general election" means the general election that occurs



1243 immediately after the effective date of a revision to the
1244 composition.

1245 **SECTION 44.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
1246 and after its passage.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-7-1, 9-7-3, 9-7-7, 9-7-11, 9-7-14,
2 9-7-15, 9-7-17, 9-7-21, 9-7-23, 9-7-25, 9-7-29, 9-7-30, 9-7-31,
3 9-7-33, 9-7-35, 9-7-37, 9-7-39, 9-7-41, 9-7-42, 9-7-44, 9-7-46,
4 9-7-47, 9-7-49, 9-7-51, 9-7-54, 9-7-55, 9-7-57, 9-7-63 AND 9-7-64,
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE NUMBER OF JUDGES AND
6 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH,
7 SIXTH, SEVENTH, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH,
8 SIXTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH, EIGHTEENTH, NINETEENTH, TWENTIETH,
9 TWENTY-FIRST, TWENTY-SECOND CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS; TO BRING
10 FORWARD SECTIONS 9-7-5, 9-7-9, 9-7-13, 9-7-19, 9-7-20, 9-7-27,
11 9-7-32, 9-7-43, 9-7-45 AND 9-7-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
12 PROVIDE FOR THE NUMBER OF JUDGES AND TERMS FOR CIRCUIT COURTS FOR
13 THE FIRST, THIRD, FIFTH, EIGHTH, TENTH, TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH
14 CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO AMEND
15 SECTIONS 25-31-5 AND 25-31-10, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
16 CONFORM THE NUMBER OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND CRIMINAL
17 INVESTIGATORS; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 99-36-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE
18 OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS, FOR
19 PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 9-7-34,
20 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDES THE NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR
21 THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT;
22 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Horan

X (SIGNED)
Owen

X (SIGNED)
Hood

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Wiggins

X (SIGNED)
McCaughn

X (SIGNED)
DeBar

