

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

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

S. B. No. 2768: Judicial redistricting; revise provisions related to chancery and circuit courts.

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

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

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

28 **SECTION 1.** Section 9-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
29 amended as follows:

30 9-5-1. A chancellor shall be elected for and from each of
31 the chancery court districts as provided in this chapter and the
32 listing of individual counties and precincts shall be those
33 counties and precincts as they existed on * * * July 1, * * *
34 2025. He shall hold court in any other district with the consent
35 of the chancellor thereof when in their opinion the public
36 interest may be thereby promoted. The terms of all chancellors
37 elected at the regular election for the year 1930 shall begin on
38 the first day of January, 1931, and their terms of office shall
39 continue for four (4) years. A chancellor shall be a resident of
40 the district in which he serves by the date on which the person
41 qualifies as a candidate for the judicial office but shall not be



required to be a resident of a subdistrict if the district is divided into subdistricts.

SECTION 2. Section 9-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-5-3. (1) The state shall be divided into an appropriate number of chancery court districts, severally numbered and composed of the counties as set forth in the sections which follow. A court to be styled "The Chancery Court of the County of ____" shall be held in each county, and within each judicial district of a county having two (2) judicial districts, at least twice a year. Court shall be held in chancery court districts consisting of a single county on the same dates state agencies and political subdivisions are open for business excluding legal holidays. The dates upon which terms shall commence and the number of days for which terms shall continue in chancery court districts consisting of more than one (1) county shall be set by order of the chancellor in accordance with the provisions of subsection (2) of this section. A matter in court may extend past a term if the interest of justice so requires.

(2) An order establishing the commencement and continuation of terms of court for each of the counties within a chancery court district consisting of more than one (1) county shall be entered annually and not later than October 1 of the year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the terms of court are to become effective. Notice of the dates upon which terms of court



67 shall commence and the number of days for which the terms shall
68 continue in each of the counties within a chancery court district
69 shall be posted in the office of the chancery clerk of each county
70 within the district and mailed to the office of the Secretary of
71 State for publication and distribution to all Mississippi Bar
72 members. If an order is not timely entered, the terms of court
73 for each of the counties within the chancery court district shall
74 remain unchanged for the next calendar year.

75 (3) The number of chancellorships for each chancery court
76 district shall be determined by the Legislature based upon the
77 following criteria:

78 (a) The population of the district;
79 (b) The number of cases filed in the district;
80 (c) The caseload of each chancellor in the district;
81 (d) The geographic area of the district;
82 (e) An analysis of the needs of the district by the
83 court personnel of the district; and

84 (f) Any other appropriate criteria, as determined by
85 the Legislature.

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

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



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

(c) Method of assimilating the specified data.

(5) In a district having more than one (1) office of chancellor, there shall be no distinction whatsoever in the powers, duties and emoluments of those offices except that the chancellor who has been for the longest time continuously a chancellor of that court or, should no chancellor have served longer in office than the others, the chancellor who has been for the longest time a member of The Mississippi Bar shall be the senior chancellor. The senior chancellor shall have the right to assign causes and dockets and to set terms in districts consisting of more than one (1) county.

SECTION 3. Section 9-5-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-9. The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Jasper County;
- (b) Newton County; and
- (c) Scott County.

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

9-5-9. (1) The Second Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:



- 116 (a) Covington County;
117 (* * *b) Jasper County;
118 (c) Jefferson Davis County;
119 (* * *d) Newton County; * * *
120 (e) Simpson County;
121 (* * *f) Scott County * * *; and
122 (g) Smith County.

123 (2) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Second
124 Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be
125 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
126 and election only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."
127 The chancellor to fill Place One must reside in either Jasper
128 County, Newton County or Scott County. The chancellor to fill
129 Place Two must reside in either Covington County, Jefferson Davis
130 County, Simpson County, or Smith County. The chancellor to fill
131 Place Three may reside in any county in the district.

132 **SECTION 4.** Section 9-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
133 amended as follows:

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

135 9-5-11. (1) The Third Chancery Court District is composed
136 of the following counties:

- 137 (a) DeSoto County;
138 (b) Grenada County;
139 (c) Montgomery County;
140 (d) Panola County;



(e) Tate County; and
(f) Yalobusha County.
(2) The Third Chancery Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:
(a) Subdistrict 3-1 shall consist of DeSoto County.
(b) Subdistrict 3-2 shall consist of Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

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

9-5-11. * * * The Third Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) * * * Carroll County;
- (b) Grenada County;
- (c) Montgomery County;
- (d) Panola County;
- (e) Tallahatchie County;
- (* * * f) Tate County; and
- (* * * g) Yalobusha County.

* * *

SECTION 5. Section 9-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-13. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Third Chancery Court District.



(2) (a) The chancellor of Subdistrict 3-1 shall be elected from DeSoto County. The two (2) chancellors of Subdistrict 3-2 shall be elected from Grenada County, Montgomery County, Panola County, Tate County and Yalobusha County.

(b) For purposes of appointment and election, the three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. The chancellorship in Subdistrict 3-1 shall be denominated only as "Place One," and the chancellorships in Subdistrict 3-2 shall be denominated only as "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

9-5-13. (1) There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the Third Chancery Court District.

(2) * * * For purposes of appointment and election only, the * * * two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated as "Place One * * *" and "Place Two * * *." * * * The chancellor of Place One must reside in Tate County, Panola County or Yalobusha County. The chancellor of Place Two must reside in Carroll County, Grenada County, Montgomery County or Tallahatchie County.

SECTION 6. Section 9-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:



- 191 (a) Amite County;
192 (b) Franklin County;
193 (c) Pike County; and
194 (d) Walthall County.

195 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fourth
196 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
197 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
198 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

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

201 9-5-15. (1) The Fourth Chancery Court District is composed
202 of the following counties:

- 203 (a) Adams County;
204 (* * * b) Amite County;
205 (* * * c) Franklin County;
206 (d) Jefferson County;
207 (* * * e) Pike County; and
208 (* * * f) * * * Wilkinson County.

209 (2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
210 Fourth Chancery Court District. The * * * three (3)
211 chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for
212 purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," * * *
213 "Place Two * * *" and "Place Three." The chancellor for Place One
214 must reside in Adams County or Jefferson County. The chancellor
215 for Place Two must reside in Amite County or Wilkinson County.



The chancellor for Place Three must reside in Franklin County or
Pike County.

SECTION 7. Section 9-5-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

9-5-17. (1) The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
of Hinds County.

(2) The Fifth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
the following four (4) subdistricts:

(a) Subdistrict 5-1 shall consist of the following
precincts in Hinds County: 1, 2, 4, * * * 6, 8, 9, 10, 32, 33,
34, 35, 36, 44, 45, 46, 47, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 92,
93, 96 and 97.

(b) Subdistrict 5-2 shall consist of the following
precincts in Hinds County: 11, 12, 13, 14, * * * 16, 17, 23, 27,
28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
Brownsville, Cynthia, Pocahontas and Tinnin.

(c) Subdistrict 5-3 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 5-4 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.

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

9-5-17. * * * The Fifth Chancery Court District is composed
of Hinds County.

* * *

SECTION 8. Section 9-5-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
Fifth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
elected from each subdistrict.

(2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
the court.

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

9-5-19. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
Fifth Chancery Court District. * * * The four (4) chancellorships
shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of



266 appointment and election only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place
267 Three" and "Place Four."

268 (2) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
269 powers and duties of the said chancellors other than as cast upon
270 them by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the
271 First Judicial District of Hinds County, in the discretion of the
272 senior chancellor, may be divided into four (4) divisions as a
273 matter of convenience by the entry of an order upon the minutes of
274 the court.

275 **SECTION 9.** Section 9-5-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
276 amended as follows:

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

278 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
279 following counties:

- 280 (a) Attala County;
- 281 (b) Carroll County;
- 282 (c) Choctaw County;
- 283 (d) Kemper County;
- 284 (e) Neshoba County; and
- 285 (f) Winston County.

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

288 9-5-21. The Sixth Chancery Court District is composed of the
289 following counties:

- 290 (a) Attala County;



291 * * *

292 (* * *b) Choctaw County;

293 (* * *c) Kemper County;

294 (* * *d) Neshoba County; * * *

295 (e) Webster County; and

296 (f) Winston County.

297 **SECTION 10.** Section 9-5-22, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
298 amended as follows:

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

300 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
301 Sixth Chancery Court District.

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

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

307 9-5-22. (1) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the
308 Sixth Chancery Court District.

309 (2) The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and
310 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
311 only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The chancellor for "Place
312 One" must reside in Attala County, Choctaw County or Webster
313 County. The chancellor for "Place Two" must reside in Winston
314 County, Neshoba County or Kemper County.



SECTION 11. Section 9-5-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Bolivar County;
- (b) Coahoma County;
- (c) Leflore County;
- (d) Quitman County;
- (e) Tallahatchie County; and
- (f) Tunica County.

(2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

- (a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County and Coahoma County;
- (b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County, Quitman County, Tallahatchie County and Tunica County.

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

9-5-23. (1) The Seventh Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Bolivar County;
- (b) Coahoma County;
- (c) Leflore County;
- (d) Quitman County;



(e) * * * Sunflower County; and
(f) Tunica County.
(2) The Seventh Chancery Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:
(a) Subdistrict 7-1 shall consist of Bolivar County, Tunica County, Quitman County, and Coahoma County;
(b) Subdistrict 7-2 shall consist of Leflore County * * * and * * * Sunflower County.

SECTION 12. Section 9-5-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-25. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Seventh Chancery Court District. The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-1 and shall be denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One," and two (2) chancellors shall be elected from Subdistrict 7-2 and shall be denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

9-5-25. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the Seventh Chancery Court District. The * * * two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from each subdistrict * * *.



SECTION 13. Section 9-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

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

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

9-5-27. The Eighth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Hancock County; and
- (b) Harrison County * * *.

* * *

SECTION 14. Section 9-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Humphreys County;
- (b) Issaquena County;
- (c) Sharkey County;
- (d) Sunflower County;
- (e) Warren County; and



390 (f) Washington County.

391 (2) The Ninth Chancery Court District shall be divided into
392 three (3) subdistricts as follows:

393 (a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of the following
394 precincts in the following counties:

395 (i) Sunflower County: Boyer-Linn, Drew,
396 Fairview-Hale, Indianola 2 East*, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
397 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Rome, Ruleville, Ruleville North
398 and Sunflower Plantation; and

399 (ii) Washington County: American Legion, Brent
400 Center, Buster Brown Community Center, Darlove Baptist Church*,
401 Elks Club, Extension Building, Grace Methodist Church*, Greenville
402 Industrial College, Leland Health Department Clinic, Leland Rotary
403 Club, Metcalf City Hall and Potter House Church.

404 (b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of Humphreys County
405 and the following precincts in the following counties:

406 (i) Sunflower County: Doddsville, Indianola 2
407 East*, Indianola 2 West, Indianola 3 North*, Indianola 3
408 Northeast*, Indianola 3 South*, Indianola Southeast, Inverness,
409 Moorhead, Sunflower 3 and Sunflower 4; and

410 (ii) Washington County: Arcola City Hall, Christ
411 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Darlove Baptist Church*, Glen Allan
412 Health Clinic, Grace Methodist Church*, Hollandale City Hall, St.
413 James Episcopal Church, Swiftwater Baptist Church, Tampa Drive and
414 Ward's Recreation Center.



(c) Subdistrict 9-3 shall consist of Issaquena County, Sharkey County and Warren County.

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

9-5-31. (1) The Ninth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

(a) Humphreys County;

(b) Issaquena County;

(c) Sharkey County;

* * *

(* * *d) Warren County; and

(* * *e) Washington County.

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

(a) Subdistrict 9-1 shall consist of * * * Washington County and Humphreys County; and

(b) Subdistrict 9-2 shall consist of * * * Issaquena County, Sharkey County and Warren County.

* * *

SECTION 15. Section 9-5-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-33. There shall be three (3) chancellors for the Ninth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from each subdistrict.



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

442 9-5-33. There shall be * * * two (2) chancellors for the
443 Ninth Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be
444 elected from each subdistrict.

445 **SECTION 16.** Section 9-5-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
446 amended as follows:

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

448 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
449 following counties:

- 450 (a) Forrest County;
- 451 (b) Lamar County;
- 452 (c) Marion County;
- 453 (d) Pearl River County; and
- 454 (e) Perry County.

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

457 9-5-35. The Tenth Chancery Court District is composed of the
458 following counties:

459 * * *

- 460 (* * * a) Lamar County;
- 461 (* * * b) Marion County;
- 462 (* * * c) Pearl River County; and
- 463 (* * * d) * * * Walthall County.



464 **SECTION 17.** Section 9-5-36, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
465 amended as follows:

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

467 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
468 Tenth Chancery Court District.

469 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
470 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
471 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
472 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may be a resident
473 of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill Place Two
474 must be a resident of Lamar, Marion, Pearl River or Perry County.
475 The chancellor to fill Place Three must be a resident of Forrest
476 County. Election of the four (4) offices of chancellor shall be
477 by election to be held in every county within the Tenth Chancery
478 Court District.

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

481 9-5-36. (1) There shall be four (4) chancellors for the
482 Tenth Chancery Court District.

483 (2) The four (4) chancellorships shall be separate and
484 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
485 only as "Place One," "Place Two," "Place Three" and "Place Four."
486 The chancellor to fill Place One and Place Four may be a resident
487 of any county in the district. The chancellor to fill Place Two



must be a resident of Lamar * * * County. The chancellor to fill
Place Three must be a resident of * * * Pearl River County. * * *

(3) While there shall be no limitation whatsoever upon the
powers and duties of the chancellors other than as cast upon them
by the Constitution and laws of this state, the court in the Tenth
Chancery Court District, in the discretion of the senior
chancellor, may be divided into separate divisions for the
efficient handling of cases based on subject matter, judicial
economy, or other factors by entry of an order upon the minutes.

SECTION 18. Section 9-5-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is
composed of the following counties:

- (a) Covington County;
- (b) Jefferson Davis County;
- (c) Lawrence County;
- (d) Simpson County; and
- (e) Smith County.

(2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth
Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

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



9-5-41. (1) The Thirteenth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) * * * Forrest County;
- (b) * * * Perry County; and
- (c) * * * Stone County * * * .

* * *

(2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Thirteenth Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

SECTION 19. Section 9-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

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

9-5-43. (1) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Chickasaw County;
- (b) Clay County;
- (c) Lowndes County;
- (d) Noxubee County;
- (e) Oktibbeha County; and
- (f) Webster County.

(2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be divided into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw County, Webster County and the following precincts in Oktibbeha County:



538 Bell Schoolhouse*, Bradley, Center Grove, Central Starkville*,
539 Craig Springs, Double Springs, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street
540 Center*, Maben, North Adaton, North Longview, North Starkville 2*,
541 North Starkville 3, Northeast Starkville, Self Creek, South
542 Adaton, South Longview, South Starkville*, Sturgis and West
543 Starkville*.

544 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
545 precincts in the following counties:

546 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
547 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and

548 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base A, Air Base B, Air
549 Base C, Air Base D, Air Base E, Brandon A, Brandon B, Brandon C,
550 Brandon D, Caledonia, Columbus High School A, Columbus High School
551 B, Columbus High School C, Columbus High School D, Dowdle Gas
552 Training Center B, Fairgrounds C, Fairgrounds E, Fairgrounds F,
553 Hunt C, Lee Middle School, Mitchell A, New Hope A, New Hope B, New
554 Hope C, New Hope D, New Hope E, Rural Hill A, Rural Hill B, Rural
555 Hill C, Sale A, Sale B, Sale C, Steens A, Steens B, Steens C,
556 Trinity B, Union Academy B, Union Academy C and University A.

557 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
558 and the following precincts in the following counties:

559 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
560 Point, Pheba, Pine Bluff, Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

561 (ii) Lowndes County: Artesia, Coleman A, Coleman
562 B, Crawford A, Fairgrounds A, Fairgrounds B, Fairgrounds D,



563 Fairgrounds G, Hunt A, Hunt B, Mitchell B, New Hope F, Plum Grove
564 A, Plum Grove B, Plum Grove C, Propst Park Community Hut, Trinity
565 A, Union Academy A, University B, West Lowndes A and West Lowndes
566 B; and

567 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell Schoolhouse*,
568 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, Gillespie Street Center*,
569 Hickory Grove, North Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South
570 Starkville*, Southeast Oktibbeha and West Starkville*.

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

573 9-5-43. * * * The Fourteenth Chancery Court District is
574 composed of the following counties:

- 575 (a) Chickasaw County;
576 (b) Clay County;
577 (c) Lowndes County;
578 (d) Noxubee County; and
579 (e) Oktibbeha County * * *.

580 * * * (2) The Fourteenth Chancery Court District shall be
581 divided into three (3) subdistricts as follows:

582 (a) Subdistrict 14-1 shall consist of Chickasaw
583 County * * * and the following precincts in:

584 (i) Oktibbeha County: * * * Center Grove/North
585 Adaton, Central * * * Starkville, Craig Springs/South
586 Bradley, * * * East Starkville*, * * * Hickory Grove/Southeast
587 Oktibbeha*, Maben, * * * Needmore Voting District*, North



588 Longview, North Starkville 2*, North Starkville 3, * * * Self
589 Creek/Double Springs, South Adaton, South Longview, South
590 Starkville*, Sturgis/North Bradley and West Starkville*; and

591 (ii) Clay County: Pheba* and Pine Bluff.

592 (b) Subdistrict 14-2 shall consist of the following
593 precincts in the following counties:

594 (i) Clay County: Cedar Bluff, Central West Point,
595 East West Point, Siloam, South West Point and Vinton; and

596 (ii) Lowndes County: Air Base * * *,
597 Brandon * * *, Caledonia, * * * East Columbus Gym, * * * First
598 Assembly, * * * Immanuel, * * * New Hope * * *, Plum Grove* Rural
599 Hill * * * Southside Church*, * * * Steens * * *, Townsend Park,
600 Trinity * * * and University * * *.

601 (c) Subdistrict 14-3 shall consist of Noxubee County
602 and the following precincts in the following counties:

603 (i) Clay County: Cairo, Caradine, North West
604 Point, Pheba*, * * * Tibbee, Union Star and West West Point;

605 (ii) Lowndes County: 15th Street Church, Artesia,
606 Coleman * * * Crawford * * *, * * * Hunt * * * Plum
607 Grove* * * *, * * * Southside Church* and West Lowndes * * *; and

608 (iii) Oktibbeha County: Bell * * * Schoolhouse,
609 Central Starkville*, East Starkville*, * * * Hickory
610 Grove/Southeast Oktibbeha*, Needmore Voting District, North
611 Starkville 2*, Oktoc, Osborn, Sessums, South Starkville* * * * and
612 West Starkville*.



613 **SECTION 20.** Section 9-5-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
614 amended as follows:

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

616 9-5-47. The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is composed of
617 the following counties:

618 (a) Copeiah County; and

619 (b) Lincoln County.

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

622 9-5-47. (1) The Fifteenth Chancery Court District is
623 composed of the following counties:

624 (a) Claiborne County;

625 (* * *b) Copeiah County; * * *

626 (c) Lawrence County; and

627 (* * *d) Lincoln County.

628 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Fifteenth
629 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
630 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
631 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two."

632 **SECTION 21.** Section 9-5-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
633 amended as follows:

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

635 9-5-49. (1) The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is
636 composed of the following counties:

637 (a) George County;



(b) Greene County; and

(c) Jackson County.

(2) The local contributions required for the maintenance of the Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be paid on a pro rata basis by each county in the district based on the proportion of that county's population to the district as a whole according to the most recent federal decennial census. The amount of the local contributions under this subsection (2) shall be determined by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to be ordered by the senior chancellor of the Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

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

9-5-49. (1) The Sixteenth Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

(a) George County; and

* * *

(* * *b) Jackson County.

(2) The local contributions required for the maintenance of the Sixteenth Chancery Court District shall be paid on a pro rata basis by each county in the district based on the proportion of that county's population to the district as a whole according to the most recent federal decennial census. The amount of the local contributions under this subsection (2) shall be determined by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors to be ordered by the senior chancellor of the Sixteenth Chancery Court District.



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

665 9-5-49. The Sixteenth Chancery Court District * * * shall be
666 Jackson County.

667 **SECTION 22.** Section 9-5-50, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
668 amended as follows:

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

670 9-5-50. (1) There shall be three (3) chancellors for the
671 Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

672 (2) The three (3) chancellorships shall be separate and
673 distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment and election
674 only as "Place One," "Place Two" and "Place Three."

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

677 9-5-50. (1) There shall be * * * four (4) chancellors for
678 the Sixteenth Chancery Court District.

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

683 **SECTION 23.** Section 9-5-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
684 amended as follows:

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

686 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District is
687 composed of the following counties:



- 688 (a) Adams County;
689 (b) Claiborne County;
690 (c) Jefferson County; and
691 (d) Wilkinson County.

692 (2) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District shall be divided
693 into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

694 (a) Subdistrict 17-1 shall consist of Claiborne County,
695 Jefferson County, and the following precincts in Adams County:
696 Airport Carpenter*, Convention Center*, Foster Mound, Maryland*,
697 Northside School, Palestine, Pine Ridge, Thompson and Washington*.

698 (b) Subdistrict 17-2 shall consist of Wilkinson County
699 and the following precincts in Adams County: Beau Pre, Bellemont,
700 By-Pass Fire Station, Carpenter*, Concord, Convention Center*,
701 Courthouse, Duncan Park, Kingston, Liberty Park, Maryland*,
702 Morgantown, Oakland and Washington*.

703 (3) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Seventeenth
704 Chancery Court District. One (1) chancellor shall be elected from
705 each subdistrict.

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

708 9-5-51. (1) The Seventeenth Chancery Court District is
709 composed of * * * DeSoto County.

710 * * *

711 (* * * 2) There shall be * * * three (3) chancellors for the
712 Seventeenth Chancery Court District. * * * The chancellorships



shall be separate and distinct and denominated as "Place One,"
"Place Two" and "Place Three." The chancellor to fill Place One
and Place Two shall be elected from all of the precincts within
the district. Place Three shall be a subdistrict denominated as
17-1 for purposes of appointment and election. The chancellor to
fill Place Three shall be elected from the following precincts in
DeSoto County: Horn Lake Central, Horn Lake East, Horn Lake High
School*, Horn Lake Intermediate School, Horn Lake North, Horn Lake
West, Northwest Community College*, Southhaven South and
Southhaven West*

SECTION 24. Section 9-5-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

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

9-5-55. The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is composed
of the following counties:

- (a) Jones County; and
- (b) Wayne County.

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

9-5-55. (1) The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is
composed of the following counties:

- (a) Greene County;
- (b) Jones County; and
- (* * *c) Wayne County.



737 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Nineteenth
738 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
739 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
740 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The chancellor
741 to fill Place One must reside in Jones County, and the chancellor
742 to fill Place Two may reside in any county in the district, except
743 Jones County.

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

746 9-5-55. (1) The Nineteenth Chancery Court District is
747 composed of the following counties:

748 (a) George County;

749 (b) Greene County;

750 (c) Jones County; and

751 (* * *d) Wayne County.

752 (2) There shall be two (2) chancellors for the Nineteenth
753 Chancery Court District. The two (2) chancellorships shall be
754 separate and distinct and denominated for purposes of appointment
755 and election only as "Place One" and "Place Two." The chancellor
756 to fill Place One must reside in Jones County, and the chancellor
757 to fill Place Two may reside in any county in the district, except
758 Jones County.

759 **SECTION 25.** Candidates for the chancellorships created by
760 this act shall run for those offices in the general election for
761 judicial officers to be conducted in November 2026. Candidates



shall file as is provided in Section 23-15-977, and shall run for office and be elected as provided in Sections 23-15-974 through 23-15-985, which constitute the Nonpartisan Judicial Election Act. The judges elected shall serve four-year terms to begin January 1, 2027, and the terms of those offices shall thereafter be as provided for chancellors and circuit judges generally.

SECTION 26. Section 9-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

9-5-37. (1) The Eleventh Chancery Court District is composed of the following counties:

- (a) Holmes County;
- (b) Leake County;
- (c) Madison County; and
- (d) Yazoo County.

(2) The Eleventh Chancery Court District shall be divided into two (2) subdistricts as follows:

(a) Subdistrict 11-1 shall consist of Holmes County, Yazoo County and the following precincts in Madison County: * * * Anderson Lodge, Canton Bible Church, Canton Community Center, Ferns Chapel Freewill, Frankin Baptist Church, Madison County Baptist Family Life Center * * * and Magnolia Heights * * *;

(b) Subdistrict 11-2 shall consist of Leake County and the following precincts in Madison County: * * * Camden, Cameron, * * * First Presbyterian, Canton Catholic Parish Center, Canton Fire Station #4, Canton National Guard Amory, Canton South



787 Liberty, Canton St. Paul Methodist, Cedar Grove, * * * China
788 Grove, Colonial Heights, Couparle, Farmhaven Fire Station,
789 Fellowship Bible Church, First Baptist, Gluckstadt, Grace
790 Crossing, Greater Mt. Levi Church, Highland Colony Baptist
791 Church, * * * Lake Caroline Clubhouse, Mark Apartments, Mount
792 Hope, New Life, North Bay, * * * Parkway Church, Pleasant Gift
793 Church, Pleasant Green, Ridgeland First Methodist Church, * * *
794 Ridgeland Recreational Center, Sunnybrook, Tougaloo, * * * Trace
795 Ridge, Twin Lakes Baptist, Vertical Church, Victory Baptist
796 Church * * * and Victory Christian.

797 **SECTION 27.** Partial or split precincts are identified in
798 House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act by an asterisk
799 following the designation of the precinct. The Chairmen of the
800 Senate Judiciary, Division A Committee and the House Judiciary B
801 Committee shall file with the Secretary of State the Split
802 Precinct Block List developed in conjunction with the description
803 contained in House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act
804 that details the portions of the partial or split precincts, which
805 are contained within a district by census block number, and such
806 document duly filed with the Secretary of State is hereby
807 incorporated into and shall be construed to be an integral part of
808 this act.

809 **SECTION 28.** The boundaries of the judicial districts
810 described above shall be:



(a) The boundaries of the counties listed above as such boundaries existed on July 1, 2025; and

(b) The precinct boundaries along such judicial district boundaries as the precinct boundaries are contained in Census Bureau's Public Law 94-171 Geographic Support Products provided for use with the September 16th data deliveries officially called the "2020 Census State Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary Files."

SECTION 29. (1) House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof and to redistrict the Judicial districts of this state in compliance with legal requirements.

(2) If the districts described in House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session or this act do not carry out the purposes thereof because of unintentional omissions, duplications, overlapping areas, erroneous nomenclature, lack of adequate descriptions of political subdivisions, wards or other divisions thereof, or of their boundary lines, then the Secretary of State, at the request of the Chairmen of the Senate Judiciary, Division A Committee and the House Judiciary B Committee shall, by order, correct such omissions, overlaps, erroneous nomenclature or other defects in the description of districts so as to accomplish the purposes and objectives of House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act.

(3) In promulgating such orders, the Secretary of State shall be guided by the following standard: in any instance in



which there is a conflict between the description of a district as provided in House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act and either the official map of the judicial districts developed by the Senate Judiciary, Division A Committee and the House Judiciary B Committee or, where applicable, the official map of the boundaries of the Capitol Complex Improvement District as described by Section 29-5-203, the applicable map shall control.

(4) Copies of such orders shall be filed by the Secretary of State in his office and in the offices of the affected commissioners of election and registrars. The Secretary of State may adopt reasonable rules regulating the procedure for applications for orders under House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act in the manner of serving and filing a notice or copy of orders relating thereto. Upon the filing of an order, the description of any affected district shall be deemed to have been corrected in the manner provided in such order to the full extent as if the correction had been contained in the original description provided in House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session or this act.

SECTION 30. The Senate Judiciary, Division A Committee and House Judiciary B Committees are directed to provide all information necessary to assist the counties in identifying the boundaries of the districts described in House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act.



860 **SECTION 31.** The Chairmen of the Senate Judiciary, Division A
861 Committee and the House Judiciary B Committees shall file copies
862 of House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and this act with the
863 Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Secretary of
864 State, the Clerk of the Mississippi House of Representatives, and
865 the Secretary of the Mississippi State Senate.

866 **SECTION 32.** If any paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or
867 any part of House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session or this act is
868 declared to be unconstitutional or void, or if for any reason is
869 declared to be invalid or of no effect, the remaining paragraphs,
870 sentences, clauses, phrases or parts thereof shall be in no manner
871 affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

872 **SECTION 33.** The redistricting of the Circuit Court Districts
873 by House Bill 1544, 2025 Regular Session and the Chancery Court
874 Districts by this act shall be deemed to be separate and distinct
875 from one another. The invalidity of any individual district of
876 either the chancery or circuit courts shall not affect or require
877 the redistricting of any other district.

878 **SECTION 34.** The enactment into law of House Bill 1544, 2025
879 Regular Session and this act shall fulfill the Legislature's
880 obligation to redistrict the circuit and chancery court districts
881 by December 31 of the fifth year following any federal decennial
882 census after the 1980 Federal Decennial Census as required by
883 Section 152 of Article 6 of Mississippi Constitution of 1890.



884 **SECTION 35.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
885 and after July 1, 2025.

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

1 AN ACT TO REDISTRIBUTE THE CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS OF THE
2 STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 152 OF ARTICLE 6 OF THE MISSISSIPPI
3 CONSTITUTION OF 1890; TO AMEND SECTION 9-5-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
4 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COUNTIES AND INDIVIDUAL PRECINCTS IN
5 THIS CHAPTER SHALL BE THOSE COUNTIES AND PRECINCTS AS THEY EXISTED
6 ON JULY 1, 2025; TO PROVIDE THAT A CHANCELLOR SHALL BE A RESIDENT
7 OF THE DISTRICT IN WHICH HE SERVES BY THE DATE ON WHICH THE PERSON
8 QUALIFIES AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE JUDICIAL OFFICE; TO AMEND SECTION
9 9-5-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CRITERIA FOR
10 THE NUMBER OF CHANCELLORSHIPS THROUGHOUT THE STATE SHALL BE
11 DETERMINED BY THE LEGISLATURE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 9-5-9, 9-5-11,
12 9-5-13, 9-5-15, 9-5-17, 9-5-19, 9-5-21, 9-5-22, 9-5-23, 9-5-25,
13 9-5-27, 9-5-31, 9-5-33, 9-5-35, 9-5-36, 9-5-41, 9-5-43, 9-5-47,
14 9-5-49, 9-5-50, 9-5-51 AND 9-5-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
15 REVISE PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATED TO THE NUMBER OF JUDGES,
16 RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS, GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES, AND SUBDISTRICT
17 BOUNDARIES OF THE SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH,
18 EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, FIFTEENTH,
19 SIXTEENTH, SEVENTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICTS; TO
20 PROVIDE THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE
21 JUDICIAL OFFICES CREATED BY VIRTUE OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTION
22 9-5-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO UPDATE PRECINCT GEOGRAPHY IN
23 THE ELEVENTH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN
24 PROCEDURES TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THE JUDICIAL
25 REDISTRICTING OF HOUSE BILL 1544, 2025 REGULAR SESSION AND THIS
26 ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Brice Wiggins

X (SIGNED)
Tyler McCaughn

X (SIGNED)
Dennis DeBar, Jr.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Kevin Horan

X (SIGNED)
Jansen Owen

X (SIGNED)
Joey Hood

