

By: Representatives Wallace, Coleman (29th), To: Apportionment and  
Davis, Miller, Thornton, Green (96th) Elections

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1184

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT IF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL CHANGES  
2 POLITICAL PARTIES DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE, HE SHALL RESIGN HIS  
3 OFFICE AND THE OFFICE SHALL BE DECLARED VACANT, UNLESS THE CHANGE  
4 OCCURS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF A REGULAR ELECTION TO FILL THAT  
5 OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. If an elected official registers with a political  
8 party, during his term of office, that is a different political  
9 party from the political party to which he paid qualifying fees as  
10 a candidate for the office he currently holds, then the elected  
11 official shall resign his office and the office to which he was  
12 elected shall be declared vacant immediately by the Secretary of  
13 State or by the proper election commission, and the office shall  
14 be filled by special election or as otherwise provided by law.  
15 Registering with a different political party for reelection to the  
16 office the official currently holds or for election to another  
17 office shall not render an office vacant if a regular election  
18 will be held to fill the office he currently holds within six (6)  
19 months of the candidate changing political parties.

20 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
21 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
22 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
23 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
24 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
25 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
26 extended.

27 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from

28 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
29 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.