

By: Senator(s) Hawks, Hall, Johnson (19th), To: Elections  
Moffatt, Scoper, Dickerson

## SENATE BILL NO. 3045

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-976, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 AND SECTION 1 OF HOUSE BILL 1609, 1998 REGULAR SESSION, TO ALLOW  
3 POLITICAL PARTIES FREE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT TO ENDORSE AND  
4 OTHERWISE SUPPORT CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
6 MISSISSIPPI:

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8 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-976, Mississippi Code of 1972, as  
9 amended by House Bill 1609, 1998 Regular Session, is amended as  
10 follows:

11 23-15-976. A judicial office is a nonpartisan office and a  
12 candidate for election thereto is prohibited from campaigning or  
13 qualifying for such an office based on party affiliation. \* \* \*

14 SECTION 2. Section 1 of House Bill 1609, 1998 Regular  
15 Session, is amended as follows:

16 SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any individual,  
17 political party, or political action committee not affiliated with  
18 a political party to give, donate, appropriate or furnish directly  
19 or indirectly, any money, security, funds or property in excess of  
20 Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purpose of  
21 aiding any candidate or candidate's political committee for judge  
22 of a county, circuit or chancery court or in excess of Five  
23 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of aiding any  
24 candidate or candidate's political committee for judge of the  
25 Court of Appeals or justice of the Supreme Court, or to give,  
26 donate, appropriate or furnish directly or indirectly, any money,  
27 security, funds or property in excess of Two Thousand Five Hundred  
28 Dollars (\$2,500.00) to any candidate or the candidate's political  
29 committee for judge of a county, circuit or chancery court or in

30 excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of  
31 aiding any candidate or candidate's political committee for judge  
32 of the Court of Appeals or justice of the Supreme Court, as a  
33 contribution to the expense of a candidate for judicial office.

34 SECTION 3. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
35 is hereby directed to submit this act, immediately upon approval  
36 by the Governor, or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to  
37 a veto, to the Attorney General of the United States or to the  
38 United States District Court for the District of Columbia in  
39 accordance with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,  
40 as amended and extended.

41 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
42 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
43 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.