

By: Formby

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 703

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-976, TO DELETE THE PROVISION
2 WHICH PROHIBITS POLITICAL PARTIES FROM ENDORSING ANY CANDIDATE FOR
3 A NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 23-15-976, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 23-15-976. A judicial office is a nonpartisan office and a
8 candidate for election thereto is prohibited from campaigning or
9 qualifying for such an office based on party affiliation. The
10 Legislature finds that in order to ensure that campaigns for
11 nonpartisan judicial office remain nonpartisan and without any
12 connection to a political party, political parties and any
13 committee or political committee affiliated with a political party
14 shall not engage in fund-raising on behalf of a candidate or
15 officeholder of a nonpartisan judicial office, a political party
16 or any committee or political committee affiliated with a
17 political party make any contribution to a candidate for
18 nonpartisan judicial office or the political committee of a
19 candidate for nonpartisan judicial office; however, a political
20 party or any committee or political committee affiliated with a
21 political party may endorse publicly any candidate for nonpartisan

22 judicial office. No candidate or candidate's political committee
23 for nonpartisan judicial office shall accept a contribution from a
24 political party or any committee or political committee affiliated
25 with a political party.

26 SECTION 2. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
27 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
28 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
29 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
30 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
31 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
32 extended.

33 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
34 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
35 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.