

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary, Division A

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2074

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ILLEGAL ACTS OF FAILURE TO DISCLOSE A
2 PERSONAL GIFT FROM A LITIGANT TO ALL OTHER LITIGANTS; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) Any county, circuit or chancery court, judge
6 of the Court of Appeals, justice of the Supreme Court, justice
7 court judge, Workers' Compensation Commissioner, or administrative
8 law judge who has received a personal monetary gift or the promise
9 of a personal monetary gift in excess of Two Hundred Dollars
10 (\$200.00) from any litigant or lawyer with a case or matter
11 pending before the commissioner, judge or justice shall disclose
12 the gift or promise, and the nature and amount of the gift or
13 promise, to all litigants and lawyers in the case or matter.

14 (2) Any litigant or lawyer having a case or matter pending
15 before any of the officials listed in subsection (1) who has given
16 or promised a personal monetary gift in excess of Two Hundred
17 Dollars (\$200.00) to the official shall disclose the gift or
18 promise, and the nature and amount of the gift or promise, to all
19 litigants and lawyers in the case or matter.

20 (3) Violation of this section shall be a felony punishable
21 by a fine not to exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) or
22 imprisonment in the custody of the Department of Corrections not
23 to exceed five (5) years, or both.

24 (4) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to
25 any other provisions of law applicable to commissioners, judges,
26 justices, litigants or lawyers and shall not be construed so as to
27 limit or negate any other provision of law.

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

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