

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2022

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

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

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

25 (4) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to
26 any other provisions of law applicable to commissioners, judges,

27 justices, litigants or lawyers and shall not be construed so as to
28 limit or negate any other provision of law.

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

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