

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2353

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES FROM PROVIDING ANY
2 POLITICAL CANDIDATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING
3 COURT TERMS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
4 TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT JUDGES FROM ALLOWING ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE
5 TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING COURT TERMS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** No judge of any circuit court shall provide an
9 opportunity for any political candidate to address the public
10 during court terms.

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 23-15-973. * * * No judge of any circuit court may provide
14 an opportunity for any candidate for justice of the Supreme Court,
15 judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge or chancellor to
16 address the public during court terms. It shall be unlawful for
17 any candidate for * * * the office of justice of the Supreme
18 Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge or chancellor
19 to align himself with any candidate or candidates for any other
20 office or with any political faction or any political party at any



21 time during any primary or general election campaign. Likewise it
22 shall be unlawful for any candidate for any other office nominated
23 or to be nominated at any primary election, wherein any candidate
24 for any of the judicial offices in this section mentioned, is or
25 are to be nominated, to align himself with any one or more of the
26 candidates for said offices or to take any part whatever in any
27 nomination for any one or more of said judicial offices, except to
28 cast his individual vote. Any candidate for any office, whether
29 nominated with or without opposition, at any primary wherein a
30 candidate for any one (1) of the judicial offices herein mentioned
31 is to be nominated who shall deliberately, knowingly and willfully
32 violate the provisions of this section shall forfeit his
33 nomination, or if elected at the following general election by
34 virtue of said nomination, his election shall be void.

35 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2021.

