

By: Representative Eubanks

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1126

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR ELECTION
2 OFFICIAL SHALL SOLICIT, TAKE OR OTHERWISE ACCEPT FROM ANY PERSON,
3 ANY CONTRIBUTION, DONATION OR ANYTHING ELSE OF VALUE FOR PURPOSES
4 OF CONDUCTING STATE OR LOCAL ELECTIONS IN THIS STATE; TO PROVIDE
5 THAT ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES RELATED TO CONDUCTING ELECTIONS SHALL
6 BE PAID FOR WITH PUBLIC FUNDS; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES; AND FOR
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, "person" means any
10 individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture,
11 syndicate, labor union, business trust, company, association,
12 committee, corporation, whether or not operated for profit, or any
13 other organization or group of persons acting in concert, or any
14 other non-governmental third-party entity.

15 **SECTION 2.** (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law
16 to the contrary, no government official or election official shall
17 solicit, take or otherwise accept from any person, any
18 contribution, donation or anything else of value for purposes of
19 conducting state or local elections in this state. All costs and



20 expenses related to conducting elections shall be paid for with
21 public funds.

22 (2) Nothing in this section shall prevent any state, county
23 or municipal entity from applying for, accepting or using any
24 grant that may be payable from federal funds available for the
25 purpose of conducting state or local elections in this state as
26 otherwise provided by law, except all new federal election funds
27 shall be approved by the Legislature before such funds may be
28 accepted or distributed by a person, group or entity charged by
29 the state to conduct any official election occurring within the
30 state.

31 **SECTION 3.** (1) Any person who violates the provisions of
32 this act shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall
33 be sentenced to pay a fine of up to Five Thousand Dollars
34 (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for no more
35 than one (1) year, or by both fine and imprisonment, or by being
36 sentenced to the State Penitentiary for not less than one (1) year
37 nor more than ten (10) years.

38 (2) The Secretary of State shall promulgate any rules and
39 regulations as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

40 **SECTION 4.** It is the intent of the Legislature that every
41 provision of this section shall operate with equal force and shall
42 be severable one from the other and that, in the event that any
43 provision of this section shall be held invalid or unenforceable
44 by a court of competent jurisdiction, that provision shall be



45 deemed severable and the remaining provisions of this act deemed
46 fully enforceable.

47 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2022.

