

By: Senator(s) Tate, England, Hill

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2575
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT JUDGES FROM ALLOWING ANY CANDIDATE FOR JUSTICE
3 OF THE SUPREME COURT, JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, CIRCUIT JUDGE
4 OR CHANCELLOR TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING COURT TERMS; TO DELETE
5 THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY CANDIDATE FOR JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME
6 COURT, JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, CIRCUIT JUDGE OR CHANCELLOR
7 ALIGNING HIMSELF OR HERSELF WITH ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATES FOR
8 ANY OTHER OFFICE OR WITH ANY POLITICAL FACTION OR ANY POLITICAL
9 PARTY AT ANY TIME DURING ANY PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN;
10 TO DELETE THE PENALTY FOR DOING SO; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-976,
11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST A
12 POLITICAL PARTY FUNDRAISING ON BEHALF OF OR ENDORSING A CANDIDATE
13 OR OFFICE HOLDER OF A NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICE; TO DELETE THE
14 PROHIBITION AGAINST A CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE
15 FOR A NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL OFFICE ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION FROM A
16 POLITICAL PARTY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:

20 23-15-973. * * * No judge of any circuit court may provide
21 an opportunity for any candidate for Justice of the Supreme Court,
22 Judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge or chancellor to
23 address the public during court terms.

24 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-976, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
25 amended as follows:



26 23-15-976. A judicial office is a nonpartisan office and a
27 candidate for election thereto is prohibited from * * * qualifying
28 for such an office based on party affiliation. * * *

29 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2022.

