

By: Senator(s) Seymour

To: Elections; Judiciary,
Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2273

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-753, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIME OF VOTE FRAUD TO A FINE NOT
3 LESS THAN \$1,000.00 AND A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT IN THE PENITENTIARY
4 FOR NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-753, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 23-15-753. (1) Any person who willfully, unlawfully and
9 feloniously procures, seeks to procure, or seeks to influence the
10 vote of any person voting by absentee ballot, by the payment of
11 money, the promise of payment of money, or by the delivery of any
12 other item of value or promise to give the voter any item of
13 value, or by promising or giving the voter any favor or reward in
14 an effort to influence his vote, or any person who aids, abets,
15 assists, encourages, helps, or causes any person voting an
16 absentee ballot to violate any provision of law pertaining to
17 absentee voting, or any person who sells his vote for money,
18 favor, or reward, has been paid or promised money, a reward, a



19 favor or favors, or any other item of value, or any person who
20 shall willfully swear falsely to any affidavit provided for in
21 Sections 23-15-621 through 23-15-735, shall be guilty of the
22 felony crime of "vote fraud" and, upon conviction, shall be * * *
23 fined not less than * * * One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor
24 more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) * * * and shall be
25 sentenced to the State Penitentiary for not less than one (1) year
26 nor more than five (5) years.

27 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person who pays or
28 compensates another person for assisting voters in marking their
29 absentee ballots to base the pay or compensation on the number of
30 absentee voters assisted or the number of absentee ballots cast by
31 persons who have received the assistance. Any person who violates
32 this section, upon conviction, shall * * * be fined not less than
33 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than Five Thousand
34 Dollars (\$5,000.00) * * * and shall be imprisoned in the
35 Penitentiary not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5)
36 years, or both.

37 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after July 1, 2023.

