

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2352

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-753, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PENALIZE ANY PERSON WHO FRAUDULENTLY REQUESTS OR SUBMITS AN
3 APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 23-15-753. (1) Any person who willfully, unlawfully and
8 feloniously procures, seeks to procure, or seeks to influence the
9 vote of any person voting by absentee ballot, by the payment of
10 money, the promise of payment of money, or by the delivery of any
11 other item of value or promise to give the voter any item of
12 value, or by promising or giving the voter any favor or reward in
13 an effort to influence his vote, or any person who aids, abets,
14 assists, encourages, helps, or causes any person voting an
15 absentee ballot to violate any provision of law pertaining to
16 absentee voting, or any person who sells his vote for money,
17 favor, or reward, has been paid or promised money, a reward, a
18 favor or favors, or any other item of value, or any person who



19 fraudulently requests or submits an absentee ballot, or any person
20 who shall willfully swear falsely to any affidavit provided for in
21 Sections 23-15-621 through 23-15-735, shall be guilty of the crime
22 of "vote fraud" and, upon conviction, shall be sentenced to pay a
23 fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than
24 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the
25 county jail for no more than one (1) year, or by both fine and
26 imprisonment, or by being sentenced to the State Penitentiary for
27 not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years.

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

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

