

By: Representative Evans

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 851

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FROM CHANGING
2 POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION DURING SUCH OFFICIAL'S TERM OF OFFICE;
3 TO PROVIDE THAT A CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION SHALL BE
4 CONSIDERED A RESIGNATION AND THE OFFICE OF SUCH OFFICIAL SHALL BE
5 VACANT AND FILLED AS PROVIDED BY LAW FOR SUCH OFFICE; TO PROVIDE
6 THAT SUCH VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED AS PROVIDED BY LAW FOR THAT
7 OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) No elected official may change political
10 party affiliation during such official's term of office. A
11 "change in political party affiliation" occurs when:

12 (a) Any elected official publicly declares that he or
13 she is leaving the political party with which he or she was
14 affiliated when he or she was elected to office;

15 (b) Any elected official publicly declares that he or
16 she is becoming a member of a political party which is different
17 from the political party with which he or she was affiliated at
18 the time of election.

19 (2) Any change of political party affiliation during an
20 official's term of office shall be considered a resignation by



21 such official and a vacancy for such office. Any such vacancy
22 shall be filled as provided by law for that office.

23 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after July 1, 2024.

