

By: Representative Calvert

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1172

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ANY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE FROM PROVIDING AN
2 OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC
3 DURING COURT TERMS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE
4 OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT ANY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE FROM PROVIDING AN
5 OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY CANDIDATE FOR SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS,
6 CHANCELLOR OR CIRCUIT JUDGE TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING COURT
7 TERMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** No judge of any circuit court shall provide an
10 opportunity for any political candidate to address the public
11 during court terms.

12 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 amended as follows:

14 23-15-973. * * * No judge of any circuit court may provide
15 an opportunity for any candidate for justice of the Supreme Court,
16 judge of the Court of Appeals, Circuit Judge or Chancellor to
17 address the public during court terms. It shall be unlawful for
18 any candidate for * * * the office of justice of the Supreme
19 Court, judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge or chancellor
20 to align himself with any candidate or candidates for any other



21 office or with any political faction or any political party at any
22 time during any primary or general election campaign. Likewise it
23 shall be unlawful for any candidate for any other office nominated
24 or to be nominated at any primary election, wherein any candidate
25 for any of the judicial offices in this section mentioned, is or
26 are to be nominated, to align himself with any one or more of the
27 candidates for said offices or to take any part whatever in any
28 nomination for any one or more of said judicial offices, except to
29 cast his individual vote. Any candidate for any office, whether
30 nominated with or without opposition, at any primary wherein a
31 candidate for any one (1) of the judicial offices herein mentioned
32 is to be nominated who shall deliberately, knowingly and willfully
33 violate the provisions of this section shall forfeit his
34 nomination, or if elected at the following general election by
35 virtue of said nomination, his election shall be void.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 2024.

