

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2296

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL SECURITY IN PUBLIC
2 PURCHASING ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** (1) This act may be cited as the "Mississippi
5 National Security in Public Purchasing Act."

6 (2) For the purposes of this section, the following words
7 and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed in this section,
8 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

9 (a) "Agency" means any state board, commission,
10 committee, council, university, department or unit thereof created
11 by the Constitution or statutes.

12 (b) "Political subdivision" means any body politic or
13 body corporate other than the state responsible for governmental
14 activities only in geographic areas smaller than that of the
15 state, including, but not limited to, any county, municipality,
16 school district, charter school, volunteer fire department that is
17 a chartered nonprofit corporation providing emergency services
18 under contract with a county or municipality, community hospital



19 as defined in Section 41-13-10, airport authority, or other
20 instrumentality of the state, whether or not the body or
21 instrumentality has the authority to levy taxes or to sue or be
22 sued in its own name.

23 (c) "Technology-related" equipment means any device
24 capable of downloading, accessing, collecting, transferring,
25 manipulating, storing, processing or transferring electronic data,
26 including but not limited to: business and personal computing
27 devices, including tablets and smartphones, printers, televisions,
28 video cameras, servers, modems, routers, hard drives, headsets and
29 aerial surveillance drones.

30 (d) "Hostile foreign nation" means any foreign nation
31 who is:

32 (i) Determined by the U.S. Department of Defense
33 to be openly hostile to the interests of the United States; or

34 (ii) Determined by the U.S. Department of State
35 Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to be in violation of
36 international human rights law; or

37 (iii) One of the following countries: China,
38 Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia or Syria.

39 **SECTION 2.** It is the policy and the will of the Mississippi
40 Legislature that the State of Mississippi avoid any national
41 security risk in the business dealings of this state and to avoid
42 all business dealings with countries that violate international
43 human rights laws. The Mississippi Legislature recognizes that



44 the United States Congress has banned the Department of Defense
45 from purchasing and using drones and other components manufactured
46 in China due to national security risk, and this act seeks to do
47 the same and more in Mississippi.

48 **SECTION 3.** (1) It shall be an unlawful practice for any
49 state agency or political subdivision to purchase with public
50 funds any technology-related equipment manufactured within the
51 borders of a hostile foreign nation or by a company headquartered
52 within the borders of or having significant corporate or political
53 ties with a hostile foreign nation.

54 (2) The use of any technology-based equipment owned by a
55 state agency or political subdivision in violation of this chapter
56 as of the passage of this act shall cease as of July 1, 2024. The
57 agency or subdivision must sell or otherwise dispose of the
58 equipment by January 1, 2025.

59 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2024.

