

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2425
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-907, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DEFINE "CAREGIVER," "FAMILY MEMBER" AND "HOUSEHOLD MEMBER" FOR
3 THE PURPOSES OF THE BALLOT HARVESTING LAW; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-907, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 23-15-907. (1) For purposes of this section, the following
9 words shall have the meanings as defined herein unless the context
10 clearly indicates otherwise:

11 (a) "Caregiver" means an individual who provides
12 medical, health care assistance or other assistance to the person
13 to whom the ballot was mailed in a residence, hospital, long-term
14 care facility, nursing home, hospice facility, assisted living
15 center, assisted living facility, assisted living home,
16 residential care institution, adult day health care facility,
17 adult foster care home or other similar facility or institution.



18 (b) "Family member" means an individual who is related
19 by blood, marriage, adoption or legal guardianship to the person
20 to whom the ballot was mailed.

21 (c) "Household member" means an individual who resides
22 at the same residence as the person to whom the ballot was mailed.

23 (* * *2) A person shall not knowingly collect and transmit
24 a ballot that was mailed to another person, except as follows:

25 (a) An election official while engaged in official
26 duties as authorized by law.

27 (b) An employee of the United States Postal Service
28 while engaged in official duties as authorized by law.

29 (c) Any other individual who is allowed by federal law
30 to collect and transmit United States mail while engaged in
31 official duties as authorized by law.

32 (d) A family member, household member, or caregiver of
33 the person to whom the ballot was mailed.

34 (e) A common carrier that transports goods from one
35 place to another for a fee. No parcel shall contain more than a
36 single ballot.

37 (* * *3) Any violation of this section shall be subject to
38 the penalties of Section 97-13-37.

39 (4) Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of
40 blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given
41 assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the
42 voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of



43 the voter's union, or a candidate whose name is on the ballot, or
44 by a spouse, parent, sibling or child of a candidate whose name is
45 on the ballot, or by a poll watcher who is observing the polling
46 place on election day; however, a candidate for public office or
47 the spouse, parent or child of a candidate may provide assistance
48 upon request of any voter who is related within the first degree.

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

