

By: Senator(s) England

To: Elections

SENATE BILL NO. 2578

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-897, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXPAND THE DEFINITION OF PUBLISH; ESTABLISH A FINE FOR FAILURE
3 TO COMPLY WITH THE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-897, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 23-15-897. (1) The following words and phrases shall have
9 the meanings as defined in this section unless the context clearly
10 indicates otherwise:

11 (a) "Campaign materials" include any materials designed
12 to influence voters for or against any candidate, party or measure
13 to be voted on at any election, or containing information about
14 any candidate, party or measure paid for by a candidate, political
15 committee * * * or independent expenditure which requires
16 disclosure under campaign finance laws.

17 (b) "Publish" means the act or instance of making
18 campaign material available to the public, or to a list of
19 subscribers, by mail, telephone, electronic communications



20 platforms, Internet, software applications, printed materials or
21 any other means of distribution, including, but not limited to,
22 radio, television or streaming services.

23 (c) "Printed material" shall include, but not be
24 limited to, any notice, placard, bill, poster, dodger, pamphlet,
25 advertisement, sign or any other form of printed publication,
26 except notices, posters and the like, which simply announce a
27 speaking date and invite attendance thereon.

28 (2) No candidate, political committee or other person shall
29 publish, or knowingly cause to be published, any campaign
30 materials unless it contains the following information:

31 (a) The name of the candidate along with a statement
32 that the message is approved by the candidate; or

33 (b) If the message has not been approved by a specific
34 candidate, the name of the person, political committee or
35 organization paying for the publication of the message; or

36 (c) If the message has not been approved by the
37 candidate and no person, political committee or organization is
38 identified as having paid for the publication, the entity
39 producing the campaign materials must be identified.

40 (3) Publication of campaign materials through an electronic
41 platform shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of this
42 section if the home page of the candidate or political committee
43 provides the information required by subsection (2) of this



44 section, and each electronic publication provides a link to that
45 home page.

46 (4) The information required by subsection (2) of this
47 section shall be printed in a manner in which the required
48 language can be easily read by the average viewer. Failure to
49 conform with subsection (2) of this section shall result in an
50 administrative fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) to be
51 assessed by the Secretary of State.

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

