

By: Representative Ford (54th)

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ANY AGENCY, BOARD, COMMISSION, PUBLIC
2 OFFICER, OR OFFICIAL OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI TO PROVIDE PRIOR
3 WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE, BEFORE
4 ENTERING INTO ANY AGREED JUDGMENT, CONSENT DECREE, OR OTHER
5 SETTLEMENT OF ANY LITIGATION OR CLAIM AGAINST THE STATE IF THE
6 SETTLEMENT IS OVER A CERTAIN AMOUNT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION
7 27-104-167, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REQUIRES THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO PUBLISH CERTAIN
9 INFORMATION ON ITS WEBSITE FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR
10 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) No agency, board, commission, public
13 officer, or official of the State of Mississippi shall, without
14 prior written notification to the Governor and the Legislature,
15 enter into any agreed judgment, consent decree, or other
16 settlement of any litigation or claim against the state if the
17 settlement:

18 (a) Would require an expenditure in an amount that
19 exceeds One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) or,

20 (b) Would impact the administration of any election.

21 (2) For the purposes of this act, written notification to
22 the Governor and the Legislature shall be provided on a form as



23 prescribed by the Attorney General and delivered to the Governor
24 and the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives on behalf of the Legislature.

26 Any agreed judgment, consent decree, or other settlement of
27 any litigation or claim against the state subject to the
28 provisions of this act, shall not go into effect until thirty (30)
29 days after written notification to the Governor and the
30 Legislature unless said period is waived by the Governor,
31 Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

32 (3) Any agreed judgment, consent decree, or other settlement
33 of any litigation or claim entered into violation of this act
34 shall be void.

35 (4) Any records, documents and information communicated to
36 the Governor and the Legislature in accordance with the provisions
37 of this act are exempt from the Mississippi Public Records Act of
38 1983, Miss. Code Ann. Sections 25-61-1, et seq.

39 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-104-167, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
40 brought forward as follows:

41 27-104-167. The Department of Finance and Administration
42 shall publish on its searchable website the annual report of each
43 agency, board, commission, department and institution required to
44 be prepared by Section 27-101-1. The Department of Finance and
45 Administration shall have the authority to establish the forms,
46 processes, procedures and timelines to furnish the annual report.
47 All such agencies, boards, commissions, departments and



48 institutions shall fully cooperate with the Department of Finance
49 and Administration in providing the information necessary to
50 comply with the requirements of this section.

51 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2025.

