

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2627

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT HAVE BEEN INDICTED  
2 FOR A CRIME OR CRIMES THAT RELATE TO OR RESULT FROM HIS OR HER  
3 ELECTED OFFICE, TO TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE UNTIL THE CASE IS  
4 RESOLVED; TO REQUIRE THAT THE OFFICE REMAIN VACANT UNTIL THE CASE  
5 IS RESOLVED OR A GENERAL ELECTION TAKES PLACE; TO ALLOW INDICTED  
6 ELECTED INDIVIDUALS TO RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT  
7 UPON CONCLUSION OF THE CASE, AN ACQUITTED ELECTED OFFICIAL MAY  
8 RESUME HIS OR HER DUTIES, BUT IF FOUND GUILTY, HE OR SHE MUST STEP  
9 DOWN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) In the State of Mississippi, any elected  
12 official who has been indicted by a grand jury for a crime or  
13 crimes that resulted from or is related to his or her: (a) abuse  
14 or misuse of his or her elected position; (b) abuse or mishandling  
15 of duties and responsibilities assigned to his or her respective  
16 elected office; and/or (c) abuse or misuse of authority or  
17 influence he or she holds due to his or her position as an elected  
18 official; shall be required to take a leave of absence and not  
19 perform any official duties until the criminal case against him or  
20 her has concluded.



21           (2) Until the conclusion of the case, the elected position  
22 shall remain vacant, unless a regularly scheduled general election  
23 occurs, and another candidate wins the election and is sworn into  
24 office. Nothing in this section shall prevent an elected  
25 individual who has been indicted from running for elected office.

26           (3) If the elected official is acquitted of all charges or  
27 the case results in a resolution that is not connected to his or  
28 her office, then he or she may resume his or her elected office.  
29 If the elected official is convicted of a crime or crimes that are  
30 found to connect to or result from his or her office, then the  
31 elected official shall resign, provided that all rights to an  
32 appeal have been exhausted.

33           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
34 and after July 1, 2025.

