

By: Senator(s) England, Seymour

To: Elections

## SENATE BILL NO. 2653

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-819, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROHIBIT FOREIGN NATIONALS FROM MAKING CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS  
3 IN CONNECTION WITH AN ELECTION FOR ANY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT,  
4 LOCAL BALLOT MEASURE, BALLOT REFERENDUM OR OTHER SIMILAR MEASURES;  
5 TO MAKE IT UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON TO KNOWINGLY SOLICIT OR AID IN  
6 THE SOLICITATION OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FOREIGN NATIONALS;  
7 TO PROVIDE THAT THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING THIS SECTION SHALL  
8 BE SUBJECT TO FINES, IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH, FOR SAID VIOLATION; TO  
9 ALLOW ANY PERSON WHO UNKNOWINGLY RECEIVES A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION  
10 FROM A FOREIGN NATIONAL TO HAVE 30 DAYS TO REMIT THE VALUE OF THE  
11 UNLAWFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ONCE THE VIOLATION  
12 HAS BEEN DETERMINED, OR BE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES; AND FOR RELATED  
13 PURPOSES.

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

15       **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-819, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17       23-15-819. (1) It shall be unlawful for a foreign national,  
18 directly or through any other person, to make any contribution or  
19 any expenditure of money or other thing of value, or to promise  
20 expressly or impliedly to make any such contribution or  
21 expenditure, in connection with an election to any political  
22 office or in connection with any primary election, convention or  
23 caucus held to select candidates for any political office.

(2) It shall be unlawful for a foreign national, directly or through any other person, to make any contribution or any expenditure of money or other thing of value, or to promise expressly or impliedly to make any such contribution or expenditure, in connection with an election for any constitutional amendment, local ballot measure, ballot referendum or other similar measures.

( \* \* \*3) No person shall knowingly solicit, accept or receive any such contribution from a foreign national nor shall any person knowingly aid or facilitate a violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

( \* \* \*4) The term "foreign national" means:

(a) A foreign national as defined in 22 USCS 611(b), except that the terms "foreign national" does not include any individual who is a citizen of the United States; or

(b) An individual who is not a citizen of the United States and who is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(5) Whoever knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine in a sum equal to three (3) times the amount involved in the violation or Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), whichever amount is greater, or imprisoned for not longer than six (6) months, or by both fine and imprisonment. The payment of such fine shall not be made from any campaign contribution funds.

48                   (6) If an unlawful contribution by a foreign national is  
49 unknowingly received, the value of the unlawful contribution shall  
50 be paid to the Secretary of State within thirty (30) days of  
51 discovery. Any person who fails to remit payment to the Secretary  
52 of State within thirty (30) days shall be subject to the penalties  
53 set forth in subsection (5) of this section. The Secretary of  
54 State shall remit any payment received to the Election Support  
55 Fund.

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

