

By: Senator(s) McLendon

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2783

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES FROM PROVIDING ANY
2 POLITICAL CANDIDATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING
3 COURT TERMS; TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-973, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
4 TO PROHIBIT CIRCUIT JUDGES FROM ALLOWING ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE
5 TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC DURING COURT TERMS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** No judge of any circuit court shall provide an
9 opportunity for any political candidate to address the public
10 during court terms.

11 **SECTION 2.** Section 23-15-973, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 amended as follows:

13 23-15-973. * * * No judge of any circuit court may provide
14 an opportunity for any candidate for justice of the Supreme Court,
15 judge of the Court of Appeals, circuit judge, chancellor or
16 justice court judge to address the public during court terms. It
17 shall be unlawful for any candidate for any of the offices
18 mentioned in this section to align himself or herself with any
19 candidate or candidates for any other office or with any political
20 faction or any political party at any time during any primary or



21 general election campaign. Likewise it shall be unlawful for any
22 candidate for any other office nominated or to be nominated at any
23 primary election, wherein any candidate for any of the judicial
24 offices in this section mentioned, is or are to be nominated, to
25 align himself or herself with any one or more of the candidates
26 for the offices or to take any part whatever in any nomination for
27 any one or more of the judicial offices, except to cast his or her
28 individual vote. Any candidate for any office, whether nominated
29 with or without opposition, at any primary wherein a candidate for
30 any one (1) of the judicial offices herein mentioned is to be
31 nominated who shall deliberately, knowingly and willfully violate
32 the provisions of this section shall forfeit his or her
33 nomination, or if elected at the following general election by
34 virtue of the nomination, his or her election shall be void.

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

