

By: Representative Watson

To: Apportionment and
Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 23-15-1021, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATING THE LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL
3 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 23-15-1021, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 23-15-1021. It shall be unlawful for any individual or
8 political action committee not affiliated with a political party
9 to give, donate, appropriate or furnish directly or indirectly,
10 any money, security, funds or property in excess of Two Thousand
11 Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for the purpose of aiding any
12 candidate or candidate's political committee for judge of a
13 county, circuit or chancery court or in excess of Five Thousand
14 Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of aiding any candidate or
15 candidate's political committee for judge of the Court of Appeals
16 or justice of the Supreme Court, or to give, donate, appropriate
17 or furnish directly or indirectly, any money, security, funds or
18 property in excess of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
19 (\$2,500.00) to any candidate or the candidate's political
20 committee for judge of a county, circuit or chancery court or in
21 excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the purpose of
22 aiding any candidate or candidate's political committee for judge
23 of the Court of Appeals or justice of the Supreme Court, as a
24 contribution to the expense of a candidate for judicial office.

25 Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall
26 be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished
27 by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or



28 imprisoned for up to one (1) year or by both such fine and
29 imprisonment.

30 **SECTION 2.** The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi
31 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,
32 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the
33 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States
34 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the
35 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and
36 extended.

37 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
38 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting
39 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.

