

By: Representative Sanford

To: Apportionment and
Elections; Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 724
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-13-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CREATE A CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR SOMEONE WHO ASSISTS AN ELECTOR
3 WITH CASTING A BALLOT, BUT WILLFULLY FAILS TO TURN IN THE BALLOT
4 WITH THE INTENT OF THE BALLOT NOT BEING CAST OR COUNTED IN THE
5 ELECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-13-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 97-13-13. (1) If any person shall take or remove any ballot
10 from a voting place before the close of the polls, he or she
11 shall, on conviction, be imprisoned in the county jail not more
12 than one (1) year, or be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars
13 (\$1,000.00), or both.

14 (2) If any person assisting an elector with voting in
15 accordance with Section 23-15-907 willfully fails to transmit the
16 ballot that was mailed to the elector with the intent of the
17 ballot not being cast and counted in the election, the person
18 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be
19 imprisoned in the county jail for not more than one (1) year, and



20 subject to a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars
21 (\$1,000.00).

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

