MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2021

By: Representative Evans (91st)

To: Constitution; Apportionment and Elections

HOUSE BILL NO. 902

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FROM CHANGING POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION DURING SUCH OFFICIAL'S TERM OF OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT A CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A RESIGNATION AND THE OFFICE OF SUCH OFFICIAL SHALL BE VACANT AND FILLED AS PROVIDED BY LAW FOR SUCH OFFICE; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH VACANCY SHALL BE FILLED AS PROVIDED BY LAW FOR THAT OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) No elected official may change political party affiliation during such official's term of office. A "change in political party affiliation" occurs when:

(a) Any elected official publicly declares that he or she is leaving the political party with which he or she was affiliated when he or she was elected to office;

(b) Any elected official publicly declares that he or she is becoming a member of a political party which is different from the political party with which he or she was affiliated at the time of election.

(2) Any change of political party affiliation during an official's term of office shall be considered a resignation by

such official and a vacancy for such office. Any such vacancy shall be filled as provided by law for that office.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2021.

ST: Elected official; prohibit from changing political party affiliation during term of office.