

CAMPAIGN FINANCE GUIDE

*Ensuring Compliance and
Improving Disclosure*



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Secretary of State

IV. Fines and Penalties

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

An intentional violation of the campaign finance disclosure law is a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of \$3,000 and six months imprisonment.

Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-811 (1972) states:

- Any candidate or any other person who shall willfully and deliberately and substantially violate the provisions and prohibitions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine in a sum not to exceed Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) or imprisoned for not longer than six (6) months or by both fine and imprisonment.
- In addition to the penalties provided in paragraph (a) of this section, any candidate or political committee which is required to file a statement or report which fails to file such statement or report on the date in which it is due may be compelled to file such statement or report by an action in the nature of a mandamus.
- No candidate shall be certified as nominated for election or as elected to office unless and until he files all reports required by this article due as of the date of certification.
- No candidate who is elected to office shall receive any salary or other remuneration for the office unless and until he files all reports required by this article due as of the date such salary or remuneration is payable.

Please see Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-813 (1972) for further information regarding fines and penalties for failure to file campaign finance reports.

OTHER CAMPAIGN FINANCE RESTRICTIONS:

- Incorporated committees and associations, incorporated companies, and corporations are prohibited from contributing more than \$1,000 per year, directly or indirectly, to a candidate (or the candidate's committee). They are also prohibited from contributing more than \$1,000 annually to any political party.

PENALTY: Not less than \$1,000 fine or more than \$5,000 fine against corporations.
Miss. Code Ann § 97-13-15 and 17 (1972).

- Regulated industries, companies, corporations, stockholders, or their agents or representatives are prohibited from contributing directly or indirectly to campaigns for Public Service Commissioner.

PENALTY: Not less than \$5,000 fine or imprisonment of one year or more. Miss. Code Ann. § 77-1-11 (1972).