



# Staff Report

Meeting Date: Dec 2, 2025  
Meeting Type: City Council

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**To:** City Council  
**From:** Attorney  
**Item Title:** HB1197 - Safe Solicitation Act

**Background:** House Bill 1197 (2025 Regular Session) created the Safe Solicitation Act, a new Mississippi law regulating solicitation—such as asking for donations, contributions, or selling items—in and around roadways, medians, intersections, and traffic areas. The Act took effect July 1, 2025.

Key Requirements:

- Permit required for solicitation in or near roadways, provided by the municipality.
- Permit fee shall not exceed \$25.
- Safety rules: may not impede traffic; may approach vehicles only when stopped; must remain within 100 feet of the approved intersection; may solicit only between 9:00 a.m. and one hour before sunset; no harassment or sound-amplifying devices.
- Misdemeanor penalties for soliciting without a permit (6 months confinement, \$500 fine) or forging of a permit.

Municipalities and counties may opt out of the Act’s permit requirement. Opt-out should occur before January 1 each year through formal Board action (resolution or ordinance). Even after opting out, cities may continue enforcing existing safety and obstruction laws.

**Recommendation:** NO Action until next meeting

**Attachments:** Opt Out Safe Solicitation Act & HB 1197