

By: Representatives Compretta, Dedeaux

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 880

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-15-29 AND 97-15-31, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE PENALTIES FOR LITTERING; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 97-15-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 97-15-29. (1) Anyone who shall put, throw, dump or leave on
8 the roads and highways of this state, or within the limits of the
9 rights-of-way of such roads and highways, or upon any private
10 property, any cigarette or cigar stubs, or any other thing or
11 substance likely to ignite the grass or underbrush on a road or
12 highway, in addition to being civilly liable for all damages
13 caused by such act shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
14 misdemeanor and punished as provided by subsection (3) of this
15 section.

16 (2) The Department of Transportation is authorized to erect
17 warning signs along the roads and highways of this state advising
18 the public of the existence of this section and of the penalty for
19 the violation thereof and is further authorized to install
20 receptacles at reasonable intervals along the roads and highways
21 of this state to be used as containers for trash and rubbish and
22 for the convenience of the public using such roads and highways.

23 (3) Any person found guilty of the violation of this section
24 shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than One Hundred Dollars
25 (\$100.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The
26 proceeds of such fines shall be expended by the collecting

27 jurisdiction solely for the purpose of funding local litter
28 prevention programs or projects or local or school litter
29 education programs as recommended by the statewide litter
30 prevention program of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc.

31 (4) As a part of the fine imposed by subsection (3) above, a
32 person convicted for an offense upon which fines are imposed by
33 this section may be required to perform the following, and a
34 person convicted for a second or subsequent offense upon which
35 fines are imposed by this section shall be required to:

36 (a) Remove or render harmless, in accordance with
37 written direction, as appropriate, from the Department of
38 Environmental Quality or local law enforcement authorities, the
39 unlawfully discarded solid waste;

40 (b) Repair or restore property damaged by, or pay
41 damages for any damage arising out of the unlawfully discarded
42 solid waste;

43 (c) Perform community public service relating to the
44 removal of any unlawfully discarded solid waste or to the
45 restoration of any area polluted by unlawfully discarded solid
46 waste; and

47 (d) Pay all reasonable investigative and prosecutorial
48 expenses and costs to the investigative and/or prosecutorial
49 agency or agencies.

50 (5) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of an offense
51 upon which fines are imposed by this section, the minimum and
52 maximum fines shall be doubled.

53 (6) When any litter is thrown or discarded from a motor
54 vehicle, the operator of the motor vehicle shall be deemed in
55 violation of this section.

56 (7) Assessments collected under subsection (4) of Section
57 99-19-73 from persons convicted of a violation of this section
58 shall be deposited to the credit of the Statewide Litter
59 Prevention Fund created in Section 65-1-167.

60 (8) It shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to
61 enforce the provisions of this section.

62 (9) This section shall not prohibit the storage of ties and
63 machinery by a railroad on its right-of-way where the highway

64 right-of-way extends to within a few feet of the railroad roadbed.

65 SECTION 2. Section 97-15-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
66 amended as follows:

67 97-15-31. It shall be unlawful for any person, or
68 corporation acting through any employee or agent, to knowingly or
69 wilfully or carelessly place glass, nails, tacks, or other objects
70 which may damage the property of another, in any public street,
71 highway, alley-way, or sidewalk. If said person or corporation
72 shall not immediately gather up and remove same, he or it shall be
73 guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not
74 less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) nor more than Two Hundred Dollars
75 (\$200.00) for each offense, and in addition shall be liable to any
76 person injured thereby, or injury to his property, for two (2)
77 times the amount of actual damage sustained.

78 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
79 and after July 1, 1999.