

By: Stogner

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2589

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-17-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR TIMBER THEFT; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 97-17-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:[BD1]

7 97-17-59. (1) Any person who * * * knowingly, willfully and
8 feloniously takes, steals and carries away from the lands of
9 another any merchantable timber * * * of the value of less than
10 Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), whether the timber is
11 growing, standing or lying on the lands, is guilty of a
12 misdemeanor; and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a
13 fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than
14 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the county
15 jail for a term of not less than thirty (30) days nor more than
16 one hundred (100) days, or both, in the discretion of the court.

17 (2) Any person who * * * knowingly, willfully and
18 feloniously takes, steals and carries away from the lands of
19 another any merchantable timber * * * of the value of Two Hundred
20 Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) or more, whether the timber is growing,
21 standing, or lying on the lands, is guilty of a felony; and upon

22 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than
23 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor more than Five Thousand
24 Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in the Penitentiary for a
25 term of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years,
26 or both, in the discretion of the court.

27 (3) The court may order that restitution be made to the
28 owner in an amount determined by the court.

29 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 2000.