

By: Representatives Martinson, Fillingane,  
Lott

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 619

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-61-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE TIME PERIOD FOR PRODUCING OR DENYING PRODUCTION OF  
3 PUBLIC RECORDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25-61-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 25-61-5. (1) Except as otherwise provided by Sections  
8 25-65-9 and 25-65-11, all public records are hereby declared to be  
9 public property, and any person shall have the right to inspect,  
10 copy or mechanically reproduce or obtain a reproduction of any  
11 public record of a public body in accordance with reasonable  
12 written procedures adopted by the public body concerning the cost,  
13 time, place and method of access, and public notice of the  
14 procedures shall be given by the public body, or, in the event  
15 that a public body has not adopted such written procedures, the  
16 right to inspect, copy or mechanically reproduce or obtain a  
17 reproduction of a public record of the public body shall be  
18 provided within one (1) working day after a written request for a  
19 public record is made. No public body shall adopt procedures  
20 which will authorize the public body to produce or deny production  
21 of a public record later than seven (7) working days from the date  
22 of request for the production of such record.

23 (2) Denial by a public body of a request for access to or  
24 copies of public records under this chapter shall be in writing  
25 and shall contain a statement of the specific reasons for the  
26 denial. Each public body shall maintain a file of all denials of  
27 requests for public records. Public bodies shall be required to



28 preserve such denials on file for not less than three (3) years  
29 from the date such denials are made. This file shall be made  
30 available for inspection and/or copying during regular office  
31 hours to any person upon written request.

32 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
33 and after July 1, 2001.

