

By: Representative McBride

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1158

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE ENFORCEMENT OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW; AND FOR RELATED  
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25-41-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 25-41-15. Any person who shall willfully and knowingly  
8 violate the provisions of this chapter shall be liable civilly in  
9 a sum not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), plus all  
10 reasonable expenses incurred by such person bringing the lawsuit.  
11 In addition, any public body found to be in violation of this  
12 chapter, and having been assessed a civil penalty and ordered to  
13 pay reasonable expenses incurred by a person in a judgment against  
14 it, may seek a civil judgment against the member(s) of the public  
15 body responsible for the violation in order to recover the monies  
16 assessed against the public body.

17 The chancery courts of this state shall have the authority to  
18 enforce the provisions of this chapter and shall have jurisdiction  
19 of all civil actions brought for such purpose. Such enforcement  
20 actions may be brought by any citizen of the state and may  
21 include, but are not limited to requests for injunctions or writs  
22 of mandamus to accomplish the purpose of this chapter.

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