

By: Representatives Martinson, Mitchell

To: County Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 1557

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-3-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL AND SHALL CONSTITUTE A FELONY  
3 FOR ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL, PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OR ANY OTHER PERSON,  
4 DELIBERATELY, WITHOUT AUTHORITY OF LAW AND WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD,  
5 TO ALTER OR ATTEMPT TO ALTER THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF  
6 SUPERVISORS; TO PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENSE; AND FOR  
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 19-3-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 19-3-27. (1) It shall be the duty of the clerk of the board  
12 of supervisors to keep and preserve a complete and correct record  
13 of all the proceedings and orders of the board. He shall enter on  
14 the minutes the names of the members who attend at each meeting,  
15 and the names of those who fail to attend. He shall safely keep  
16 and preserve all records, books, and papers pertaining to his  
17 office, and deliver them to his successor when required. The  
18 minutes of each day's proceedings shall either (a) be read and  
19 signed by the president or the vice president, if the president is  
20 absent or disabled so as to prevent his signing of the minutes, on  
21 or before the first Monday of the month following the day of  
22 adjournment of any term of the board of supervisors; or (b) be  
23 adopted and approved by the board of supervisors as the first  
24 order of business on the first day of the next monthly meeting of  
25 the board.

26 (2) Any public official, public employee or any other person  
27 who deliberately, without authority of law and with intent to  
28 defraud, alters or attempts to alter the official minutes of the  
29 board of supervisors shall be guilty of a felony and, upon



30 conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than One  
31 Thousand Dollars (\$1.000), be sentenced to the custody of the  
32 department for one (1) year, or by both such fine and  
33 imprisonment.

34       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
35 and after July 1, 2002.

