

By: Representative Denny

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 637

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-37-21 AND 97-37-25, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL OR OTHER WEAPONS OF  
3 MASS DESTRUCTION IN BOMB THREAT AND UNLAWFUL USE OF EXPLOSIVES  
4 OFFENSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-37-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 97-37-21. It shall be unlawful for any person to report to  
9 another by any means, including telephone, mail, e-mail, mobile  
10 phone, fax or any means of communication, that a bomb or other  
11 explosive or chemical, biological or other weapons of mass  
12 destruction has been, or is to be, placed or secreted in any  
13 public or private place, knowing that such report is false. Any  
14 person who shall be convicted of a violation of this section shall  
15 be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or shall  
16 be committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections for  
17 not more than ten (10) years, or both.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-37-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
19 amended as follows:

20 97-37-25. It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to  
21 bomb, or to plant or place any bomb, or other explosive matter or  
22 chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction or thing  
23 in, upon or near any building, residence, ship, vessel, boat,  
24 railroad station, railroad car or coach, bus station, or depot,  
25 bus, truck, aircraft, or other vehicle, gas and oil stations and  
26 pipelines, radio station or radio equipment or other means of  
27 communication, warehouse or any electric plant or water plant,  
28 telephone exchange or any of the lines belonging thereto, wherein



29 a person or persons are located or being transported, or where  
30 there is being manufactured, stored, assembled or shipped or in  
31 the preparation of shipment any goods, wares, merchandise or  
32 anything of value, with the felonious intent to hurt or harm any  
33 person or property, and upon conviction thereof shall be  
34 imprisoned for life in the State Penitentiary if the penalty is so  
35 fixed by the jury; and in cases where the jury fails to fix the  
36 penalty at imprisonment for life in the State Penitentiary the  
37 court shall fix the penalty at imprisonment in the State  
38 Penitentiary for any term as the court, in its discretion, may  
39 determine, but not to be less than five (5) years.

40       **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
41 and after July 1, 2003.

