HOUSE BILL NO. 637

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

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

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

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

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

97-37-25. It shall be unlawful for any person at any time to bomb, or to plant or place any bomb, or other explosive matter or chemical, biological or other weapons of mass destruction or thing in, upon or near any building, residence, ship, vessel, boat, railroad station, railroad car or coach, bus station, or depot, bus, truck, aircraft, or other vehicle, gas and oil stations and pipelines, radio station or radio equipment or other means of communication, warehouse or any electric plant or water plant, telephone exchange or any of the lines belonging thereto, wherein
a person or persons are located or being transported, or where
there is being manufactured, stored, assembled or shipped or in
the preparation of shipment any goods, wares, merchandise or
anything of value, with the felonious intent to hurt or harm any
person or property, and upon conviction thereof shall be
imprisoned for life in the State Penitentiary if the penalty is so
fixed by the jury; and in cases where the jury fails to fix the
penalty at imprisonment for life in the State Penitentiary the
court shall fix the penalty at imprisonment in the State
Penitentiary for any term as the court, in its discretion, may
determine, but not to be less than five (5) years.

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