

By: Representative Fredericks

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 642  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-1-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REMOVE THE TIME LIMITATION ON PROSECUTING SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST  
3 CHILDREN; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 99-1-5. A person shall not be prosecuted for any offense,  
8 with the exception of murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault,  
9 kidnapping, arson, burglary, forgery, counterfeiting, robbery,  
10 larceny, rape, embezzlement, obtaining money or property under  
11 false pretenses or by fraud, felonious abuse or battery of a child  
12 as described in Section 97-5-39, touching or handling a child for  
13 lustful purposes as described in Section 97-5-23, sexual battery  
14 of a child as described in Section 97-3-95(1)(c) or (d) or  
15 exploitation of children as described in Section 97-5-33, unless  
16 the prosecution for such offense be commenced within two (2) years  
17 next after the commission thereof, but nothing contained in this  
18 section shall bar any prosecution against any person who shall  
19 abscond or flee from justice, or shall absent himself from this  
20 state or out of the jurisdiction of the court, or so conduct  
21 himself that he cannot be found by the officers of the law, or  
22 that process cannot be served upon him.

23 \* \* \*

24 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
25 and after July 1, 2003.

