

By: Representatives Whittington, Watson,
Barnett (116th), Brown, Eads, Fredericks,
Mayo, McBride

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 979

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-21-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY VIOLATES A DOMESTIC ABUSE
3 PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY A MISSISSIPPI COURT OR FOREIGN COURT OF
4 COMPETENT JURISDICTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR; TO AUTHORIZE A
5 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO ARREST SUCH PERSON WITH OR WITHOUT AN
6 ARREST WARRANT; TO DELETE THE PENALTY FOR A PERSON WHO VIOLATES A
7 COURT APPROVED CONSENT AGREEMENT REGARDING DOMESTIC ABUSE; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-21-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 93-21-21. Upon a knowing violation of a protective order
13 issued after a hearing or an ex parte protective order, either of
14 which was issued for the purpose of protecting the victim from
15 abuse as defined by Section 93-21-3(a), whether the order was
16 issued by a Mississippi court or a foreign court of competent
17 jurisdiction, the defendant is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon
18 conviction, the court may * * * punish the defendant by
19 imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six (6) months
20 or a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or
21 both. Any law enforcement officer has the authority to make an
22 arrest for such violation, either with a warrant or without a
23 warrant pursuant to Section 99-3-7.

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

