

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1416

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-9-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, TO
2 REVISE OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-9-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
5 amended as follows:

6 97-9-55. If any person or persons by force, bribery, promise
7 of reward, abuse, threat or threatening communication, whether
8 oral, written or by telephone or by damaging the real or personal
9 property of such person or public property under his control shall
10 attempt to or shall influence, intimidate, impede, delay, harass
11 or injure any grand or petit juror or person called for jury
12 service, police officer, investigator, judicial officer, witness,
13 informant, prosecutor, defense attorney or any other person in the
14 discharge of his duties with the intent:

15 (a) To cause such person to falsely testify, or
16 withhold testimony, records or evidence in a criminal proceeding,
17 evade subpoena or be absent from any official proceeding, inquiry
18 or investigation;

19 (b) To hinder, delay, prevent or dissuade such person
20 from reporting or prosecuting a crime, forcing or intimidating
21 such person to withdraw or alter criminal charges or make a false
22 affidavit or statement;

23 (c) To hinder, delay, prevent or dissuade any person
24 from reporting a crime or communicating with a law enforcement
25 officer, prosecutor or judge regarding the commission or possible
26 commission of a criminal offense;



27 (d) To hinder, delay, prevent or dissuade any person
28 from investigating, presenting, defending or trying any case or
29 otherwise carrying out his official duties respecting a criminal
30 case; or if any person or persons retaliate against a witness,
31 party or informant in an official proceeding by threat, bodily
32 injury, harassment or damage to real or personal property
33 belonging to or under the control of such person or intentionally
34 mislead, lie to or misdirect any official with the intent to
35 obstruct or impede an investigation or destroy, mutilate, alter,
36 conceal or fail to produce any evidence under his control or
37 possession or fail to reveal the whereabouts or evidence which is
38 known to him, shall be guilty of obstruction of justice and, upon
39 conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
40 for not more than one (1) year or a fine of not more than One
41 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both, or may be imprisoned not
42 more than ten (10) years in the State Penitentiary or fined not
43 more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

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

