

By: Representative Ellington

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1444

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-17-58, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THEFT OF CRABS FROM ANOTHER'S CRAB
3 TRAP AND THEFT OF ANOTHER'S CRAB TRAPS; TO PROVIDE A PENALTY FOR
4 THEFT OF CRABS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-17-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 97-17-58. (1) Every person who * * * steals, removes, takes
9 or carries away the crabs from another's crab trap or the crab
10 trap of another, the property of another used to catch saltwater
11 crabs from the crab trap, under the value of Two Hundred Fifty
12 Dollars (\$250.00), is guilty of petit larceny and, upon
13 conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail
14 not exceeding six (6) months or by a fine not exceeding One
15 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.

16 (2) Every person who steals, removes, takes or carries away
17 the crabs from another's crab trap or the crab trap of another,
18 of a value of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) or more, is
19 guilty of grand larceny and, upon conviction, shall be punished by
20 imprisonment in the Penitentiary not exceeding twelve (12) months
21 or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or
22 both.

23 (3) Any person who violates this section shall, in addition
24 to the above penalties, pay restitution to the owner of the crab
25 traps. The value of the crab traps is the replacement cost of the
26 crab traps.

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

