

By: Senator(s) Hamilton, White

To: Judiciary

SENATE BILL NO. 2597

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT FOCUSING OF A LASER BEAM WHEN DIRECTED AT
2 A PERSON OR ANIMAL; TO RESTRICT POSSESSION BY CERTAIN MINORS; TO
3 ENACT PENALTIES THEREFOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) It shall be unlawful for a person
6 intentionally and without legal justification to focus, point or
7 aim a laser beam directly or indirectly at another person or
8 animal in such a manner as to harass, annoy or injure such person
9 or animal.

10 (2) It shall be unlawful for a person under 18 years of age
11 to possess a laser pointing device unless the possession of such
12 device is necessary for his or her education, employment, trade or
13 occupation and it is necessary that such device be carried on his
14 or her person.

15 (3) (a) Violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor
16 and, except as provided in paragraph (b), shall be punishable with
17 a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

18 (b) If a laser beam is intentionally pointed at a law
19 enforcement officer or firefighter who is identifiable and in
20 uniform and in performance of the officer's or firefighter's
21 duties, then the fine shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars
22 (\$1,000.00).

23 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after its passage.

