

By: Representative Watson

To: Judiciary A;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 601

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF
2 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; TO PROVIDE THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
3 SHALL INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** There is created and established within the
7 Office of the Attorney General the "Civil Rights Division" which
8 shall be charged with the investigation and prosecution of civil
9 rights cases. The Attorney General shall employ the necessary
10 personnel to carry out the provisions of this act.

11 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Civil Rights Division shall investigate
12 and prosecute civil and criminal cases which result from acts of
13 discrimination against a person because of the actual or perceived
14 race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, national origin or
15 gender of the person.

16 (2) The Civil Rights Division may bring an action in the
17 name of the state against any person who commits an act of
18 discrimination against a person because of the actual or perceived
19 race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, national origin or
20 gender of the person.

21 **SECTION 3.** The Legislature shall annually appropriate funds
22 to defray the costs of operating the Civil Rights Division.

23 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
24 and after July 1, 2007.