

By: Senator(s) Flowers

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2037

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-111, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO REDACT INDIVIDUAL
3 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS WHEN ANY RECORD IS PUBLISHED ON THE
4 INTERNET OR ON A GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED WEBSITE; TO AUTHORIZE
5 REDACTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER BY THE CHANCERY CLERKS WHEN
6 POSSIBLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-1-111, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 25-1-111. (1) When any state agency mails, delivers,
11 circulates, publishes, distributes, transmits, or otherwise
12 disseminates, in any form or manner, information or material that
13 contains the social security number of an individual, the agency
14 shall take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent
15 disclosure of the individual's social security number to members
16 of the general public or to persons other than those persons who,
17 in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, have a
18 lawful and legitimate need to know the individual's social
19 security number. State agencies shall be in compliance with this
20 section on or before July 1, 2003.

21 (2) From and after July 1, 2012, unless otherwise
22 specifically required by law, when any record is published on the
23 Internet or on a government controlled website under the authority
24 of a public official of the state or any political subdivision
25 thereof, the public official is authorized to redact the
26 individual's social security number on any documents before the
27 publication.



28 **SECTION 2.** (1) The preparer of any document recorded in the
29 office of the chancery clerk shall not place a social security
30 number on any document filed or recorded in the chancery clerk's
31 office unless otherwise specifically required by law. However,
32 the chancery clerk shall not refuse to record a document for
33 failure of the preparer to comply with this prohibition, nor shall
34 the failure to comply with the prohibition affect the validity or
35 recordability of any document.

36 (2) For any records filed from and after July 1, 2012, upon
37 the written request of any person, or the surviving spouse,
38 attorney-in-fact or court-appointed guardian or conservator of the
39 person, a chancery clerk is authorized to redact the person's
40 social security number from any recorded document, if the records
41 are stored in a manner that permits redaction and if the request
42 specifically identifies the record sought to be redacted.

43 (3) Any redaction made under this section and Section
44 25-1-111 by a chancery clerk or other public official shall not
45 constitute a violation of Section 97-11-1.

46 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2012.

