

By: Representatives Currie, Boyd, Carpenter, Chism, Martinson, Monsour To: Judiciary B

## HOUSE BILL NO. 198

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-3-54.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE OFFENSE AND THE PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND  
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-3-54.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 97-3-54.1. (1) (a) A person who recruits, entices,  
8 harbors, transports, provides or obtains by any means, or attempts  
9 to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide or obtain by any  
10 means, another person, intending or knowing that the person will  
11 be subjected to forced labor or services, shall be guilty of the  
12 crime of human-trafficking.

13 (b) A person who knowingly subjects, or attempts to  
14 subject, another person to forced labor or services shall be  
15 guilty of the crime of procuring involuntary servitude.

16 (c) (i) A person who knowingly subjects, or attempts  
17 to subject, or who recruits, entices, harbors, transports,  
18 provides or obtains by any means, or attempts to recruit, entice,



19 harbor, transport, provide or obtain by any means, \* \* \* another  
20 person, knowing that the \* \* \* person will engage in commercial  
21 sexual activity, sexually explicit performance, or the production  
22 of sexually oriented material, or causes or attempts to  
23 cause \* \* \* the person to engage in commercial sexual activity,  
24 sexually explicit performance, or the production of sexually  
25 oriented material, shall be guilty of procuring sexual  
26 servitude \* \* \* and shall be punished by commitment to the  
27 custody of the Department of Corrections for not more than thirty  
28 (30) years.

29 (ii) A person who violates the provisions of  
30 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph and the violation involves a  
31 minor as the victim shall be guilty of procuring sexual servitude  
32 of a minor and shall be punished by commitment to the custody of  
33 the Department of Corrections for not more than fifty (50) years.

34 (2) A person who is convicted of an offense set forth in  
35 subsection (1)(a) or (b) of this section, or who benefits, whether  
36 financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation  
37 in a venture that has engaged in an act described in this section,  
38 shall be committed to the custody of the Department of Corrections  
39 for not more than \* \* \* twenty-five (25) years and a fine of up to  
40 Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00).

41 (3) A business entity that knowingly aids or participates in  
42 human trafficking shall be subject to the permanent loss of any  
43 license or certificate to conduct business in the state.



44           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2013.

