

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Corrections; Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1327

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT WHEN A MENTALLY ILL INMATE ESCAPES A
2 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, OR A PATIENT ESCAPES A MENTAL HEALTH
3 TREATMENT FACILITY, THE PUBLIC SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THE MENTAL
4 ILLNESS; TO DEFINE THE TERM "MENTAL ILLNESS"; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding any provision of the federal
8 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), when
9 an inmate escapes from any municipal, county or state correctional
10 facility or when a patient escapes a mental health treatment
11 facility, a designated law enforcement official shall include in
12 the notification to the public, regarding the escape: (i) whether
13 the inmate has been treated or is currently being treated for
14 mental illness and (ii) whether such inmate may be a danger to the
15 safety of the public due to the mental illness. As used in this
16 section, "mental illness" shall have the same meaning as the term
17 is defined in Section 41-21-61.

18 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
19 and after July 1, 2018.

