

By: Senator(s) Hill, Dearing, Parker,  
Blackwell

To: Judiciary, Division B

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2474

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 45-49-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI COMPANION ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY  
3 ACT TO APPLY TO DOMESTICATED DOGS AND CATS; TO CREATE NEW SECTION  
4 45-49-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ENACT DEFINITIONS; TO CREATE  
5 NEW SECTION 45-49-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE CREATION  
6 OF AN ONLINE REGISTRY OF OFFENDERS; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 45-49-7,  
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ALLOW THE PROMULGATION OF RULES FOR  
8 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
11 45-49-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

12 45-49-1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the  
13 "Mississippi Companion Animal Abuser Registration Act."

14 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section  
15 45-49-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:

16 45-49-3. As used in this chapter:

17 (a) "Abuser" or "animal abuser" means a person who has  
18 been convicted in this state of committing an animal abuse offense  
19 against a companion animal;

20 (b) "Animal" means a companion animal that is a  
21 domesticated dog or cat that comes within the purview of the



22 Mississippi Dog and Cat Pet Protection Law of 2011, Section  
23 97-41-16;

24 (c) "Animal abuse offense" means:

25 (i) Cruelty to a domesticated dog or cat under  
26 Section 97-41-16;

27 (ii) Animal fighting under either Section  
28 97-41-18, which prohibits fighting between canines and hogs, or  
29 Section 97-41-19, which prohibits dog fights; and

30 (iii) Injury or killing of a public service animal  
31 under Section 97-41-23;

32 (d) "Companion animal" means any dog, defined as any  
33 live dog of the species *Canis familiaris*, or cat, defined as any  
34 live cat of the species *Felis catus*, and does not include any  
35 animal other than domesticated dogs and cats;

36 (e) "Conviction" means a judgment entered by a  
37 Mississippi court upon a plea of guilty, a plea of *nolo*  
38 *contendere*, or a finding of guilt by a jury or the court,  
39 notwithstanding any pending appeal or habeas corpus proceeding  
40 arising from the judgment. "Conviction" includes a disposition of  
41 pretrial diversion or nonadjudication under Section 99-15-26;

42 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section  
43 45-49-5, Mississippi Code of 1972:

44 45-49-5. (1) The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation shall  
45 post a publicly accessible list on its website of any person  
46 convicted of an animal abuse offense on or after January 1, 2019.



47           (2)   (a)   The list shall include a photograph taken of the  
48 convicted animal abuser as part of the booking process, the animal  
49 abuser's full legal name, and other identifying data as the  
50 Mississippi Bureau of Investigation determines is necessary to  
51 properly identify the animal abuser and to exclude innocent  
52 persons.

53           (b)   The list shall not include the abuser's social  
54 security number, driver's license number, or any other state or  
55 federal identification number.

56           (3)   Every clerk of court shall forward a copy of the  
57 judgment and date of birth of all persons convicted of an animal  
58 abuse offense to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation within  
59 sixty (60) calendar days of the date of judgment.

60           (4)   (a)   Upon a person's first conviction for an animal  
61 abuse offense, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation shall  
62 maintain the person's name and other identifying information,  
63 described in subsection (2) of this section, on the list published  
64 under subsection (1) of this section for ten (10) years following  
65 the date of conviction, after which time the Mississippi Bureau of  
66 Investigation shall remove the person's name and identifying  
67 information from the list if the person is not convicted of  
68 another animal abuse offense during that ten-year period.

69           (b)   Upon a person's subsequent conviction for an animal  
70 abuse offense, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation shall  
71 maintain the person's name and other identifying information,



72 described in subsection (2) of this section, on the list published  
73 under subsection (1) of this section permanently.

74 (5) The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation shall remove the  
75 person's name and identifying information from the registry list  
76 if the sole offense for which the person is required to be subject  
77 to the mandates of the registry is expunged under Section  
78 99-19-71.

79 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section  
80 45-49-7, Mississippi Code of 1972:

81 45-49-7. The Mississippi Bureau of Investigation may  
82 promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. The  
83 rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Mississippi  
84 Administrative Procedures Law, Chapter 43, Title 25, Mississippi  
85 Code of 1972.

86 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
87 and after January 1, 2019, and shall stand repealed from and after  
88 December 31, 2018.

