

By: Senator(s) Watson

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2094

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REFUGEES PLACED IN THIS STATE BY THE  
 2 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST REGISTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
 3 SERVICES; TO PROVIDE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR VOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT  
 4 ORGANIZATIONS ARISING FROM THE ACTIONS OF A REFUGEE PLACED IN THIS  
 5 STATE TO WHOM THE ORGANIZATION PROVIDED SPONSORSHIP OR  
 6 RESETTLEMENT SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) Sponsors placing refugees in this state  
 9 pursuant to the federal Refugee Resettlement Program are required  
 10 to enroll the refugee with the Department of Human Services within  
 11 thirty (30) days of the refugee entering the state. The  
 12 department shall send the enrollment information of refugees  
 13 placed in this state to the Mississippi Department of Public  
 14 Safety.

15 (2) In order to register with the department, the sponsor  
 16 shall provide the refugee's name, address, telephone number, job  
 17 status, name and contact information of the refugee's employer, if  
 18 any, all state, local, or federal assistance provided to the  
 19 refugee, criminal record, and any other information that the  
 20 department determines to be relevant. A sponsor must update the



21 refugee's registration within ten (10) days of any change in any  
22 of the information required for registration.

23 (3) The registration information required in subsection (2)  
24 of this section shall be maintained by the department on a  
25 database and that database shall not be made available to the  
26 public.

27 **SECTION 2.** (1) A refugee's sponsor shall be strictly liable  
28 to a person if:

29 (a) The refugee is in the Refugee Resettlement Program;  
30 and

31 (b) The refugee acted in a reckless, willful, or  
32 grossly negligent manner, committed an act of terrorism or  
33 committed a violent crime, as defined in Section 97-3-2, that  
34 resulted in physical harm or injury to a person or damage to or  
35 theft of real or personal property.

36 (2) If the conditions of this section are met, the refugee's  
37 sponsor shall be strictly liable to the injured party. The  
38 injured party shall be entitled to recover damages in a civil  
39 action.

40 **SECTION 3.** The Mississippi Department of Public Safety, in  
41 conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, shall confirm  
42 that any refugees placed in Mississippi by the federal government  
43 pursuant to the Refugee Resettlement Program do not pose a public  
44 safety risk. The Mississippi Department of Public Safety must  
45 report to the Legislature its findings regarding public safety



46 risks as soon as practicable and thereafter update the report not  
47 later than December 1st of each year.

48           **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2019.

