

By: Senator(s) DeLano

To: Gaming

SENATE BILL NO. 2396

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-33-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 LEGALIZE ONLINE BETTING, GAMING AND WAGERING ON SPORTING EVENTS,  
3 ATHLETIC EVENTS AND EVENTS AUTHORIZED BY THE MISSISSIPPI GAMING  
4 COMMISSION UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-33-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 97-33-1. Except as otherwise provided in Section 97-33-8, if  
9 any person shall encourage, promote or play at any game, play or  
10 amusement, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs, for  
11 money or other valuable thing, or shall wager or bet, promote or  
12 encourage the wagering or betting of any money or other valuable  
13 things, upon any game, play, amusement, cockfight, Indian ball  
14 play or duel, other than a fight or fighting match between dogs,  
15 or upon the result of any election, event or contingency whatever,  
16 upon conviction thereof, he shall be fined in a sum not more than  
17 Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00); and, unless such fine and costs be  
18 immediately paid, shall be imprisoned for any period not more than



19 ninety (90) days. However, this section shall not apply to  
20 betting, gaming or wagering:

21 (a) On a cruise vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1  
22 whenever such vessel is in the waters within the State of  
23 Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State of Mississippi south  
24 of the three (3) most southern counties in the State of  
25 Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis Bay,  
26 Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, and in which the registered voters  
27 of the county in which the port is located have not voted to  
28 prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels as  
29 provided in Section 19-3-79;

30 (b) In a structure located, in whole or in part, on  
31 shore in any of the three (3) most southern counties in the State  
32 of Mississippi in which the registered voters of the county have  
33 voted to allow such betting, gaming or wagering on cruise vessels  
34 as provided in Section 19-3-79, if:

35 (i) The structure is owned, leased or controlled  
36 by a person possessing a gaming license, as defined in Section  
37 75-76-5, to conduct legal gaming on a cruise vessel under  
38 paragraph (a) of this section;

39 (ii) The part of the structure in which licensed  
40 gaming activities are conducted is located entirely in an area  
41 which is located no more than eight hundred (800) feet from the  
42 mean high-water line (as defined in Section 29-15-1) of the waters  
43 within the State of Mississippi, which lie adjacent to the State



44 of Mississippi south of the three (3) most southern counties in  
45 the State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St.  
46 Louis Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay, or, with regard to  
47 Harrison County only, no farther north than the southern boundary  
48 of the right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90, whichever is greater; and

49 (iii) In the case of a structure that is located  
50 in whole or part on shore, the part of the structure in which  
51 licensed gaming activities are conducted shall lie adjacent to  
52 state waters south of the three (3) most southern counties in the  
53 State of Mississippi, including the Mississippi Sound, St. Louis  
54 Bay, Biloxi Bay and Pascagoula Bay. When the site upon which the  
55 structure is located consists of a parcel of real property,  
56 easements and rights-of-way for public streets and highways shall  
57 not be construed to interrupt the contiguous nature of the parcel,  
58 nor shall the footage contained within the easements and  
59 rights-of-way be counted in the calculation of the distances  
60 specified in subparagraph (ii);

61 (c) On a vessel as defined in Section 27-109-1 whenever  
62 such vessel is on the Mississippi River or navigable waters within  
63 any county bordering on the Mississippi River, and in which the  
64 registered voters of the county in which the port is located have  
65 not voted to prohibit such betting, gaming or wagering on vessels  
66 as provided in Section 19-3-79; \* \* \*

67 (d) On an internet platform that offers betting, gaming  
68 or wagering on sporting events or athletic events or any events



69 authorized by the Mississippi Gaming Commission offered by a  
70 person or entity through a gaming license that authorizes the  
71 operation of a licensed gaming establishment, as those terms are  
72 defined in Section 75-76-5, provided such an internet platform:

73 (i) Is limited to a single internet platform per  
74 gaming license;

75 (ii) Complies with federal law; and

76 (iii) Received permission from the Executive  
77 Director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission to so offer the  
78 internet platform; or

79 ( \* \* \*e) That is legal under the laws of the State of  
80 Mississippi.

81 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
82 and after July 1, 2021.

