

By: Representative Hines

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 334

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-27-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE CRIME OF ENDANGERMENT FOR KNOWINGLY EXPOSING ANOTHER
3 PERSON TO INFECTIOUS BODY FLUIDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-27-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 97-27-14. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to
8 knowingly expose another person to human immunodeficiency virus
9 (HIV), hepatitis B or hepatitis C. Prior knowledge and willing
10 consent to the exposure is a defense to a charge brought under
11 this subsection. A violation of this subsection shall be a
12 felony.

13 (2) (a) A person commits the crime of endangerment by
14 bodily substance if the person attempts to cause or knowingly
15 causes a corrections employee, a visitor to a correctional
16 facility or another prisoner or offender to come into contact with
17 blood, seminal fluid, urine, feces or saliva.



18 (b) As used in this subsection, the following
19 definitions shall apply unless the context clearly requires
20 otherwise:

21 (i) "Corrections employee" means a person who is
22 an employee or contracted employee of a subcontractor of a
23 department or agency responsible for operating a jail, prison,
24 correctional facility or a person who is assigned to work in a
25 jail, prison or correctional facility.

26 (ii) "Offender" means a person who is in the
27 custody of the Department of Corrections.

28 (iii) "Prisoner" means a person confined in a
29 county or city jail.

30 (c) A violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor
31 unless the person violating this section knows that he is infected
32 with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B or hepatitis
33 C, and such contact is with blood or seminal fluid, in which case
34 it is a felony.

35 (3) Any person convicted of a felony violation of this
36 section shall be imprisoned for not less than three (3) years nor
37 more than ten (10) years and a fine of not more than Ten Thousand
38 Dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

39 (4) Any person guilty of a misdemeanor violation of this
40 section shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for
41 up to one (1) year and may be fined One Thousand Dollars
42 (\$1,000.00), or both.



43 (5) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to
44 any other provisions of law for which the actions described in
45 this section may be prosecuted.

46 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
47 and after July 1, 2022.

