

By: Senator(s) Tate

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2558

1 AN ACT TO CRIMINALIZE THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM WITHIN OR  
2 INTO THE LIMITS OF ANY PUBLIC PARK; TO PROVIDE A CRIMINAL PENALTY;  
3 TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONS TO THE CRIME; TO DEFINE TERMS; AND FOR  
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) A person who with criminal negligence  
7 discharges a firearm within or into the limits of any public park  
8 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the defendant shall  
9 be fined up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned in  
10 the county jail for a period of more than thirty (30) days but  
11 less than six (6) months, or both.

12 (2) This section does not apply if the firearm is  
13 discharged:

- 14 (a) As allowed pursuant to Section 97-3-15;
- 15 (b) On a properly supervised range;
- 16 (c) By special permit of the sheriff of the county;
- 17 (d) By special permit of the chief of police of the  
18 municipality;



19 (e) As required by an animal control officer in the  
20 performance of his or her duties;

21 (f) Using blanks;

22 (g) In self-defense or defense of another person  
23 against an animal attack if a reasonable person would believe that  
24 deadly physical force against the animal is immediately necessary  
25 and reasonable under the circumstances to protect oneself or the  
26 other person.

27 (3) For the purposes of this section:

28 (a) "Occupied structure" means any building, object,  
29 vehicle, watercraft, aircraft or place with sides and a floor that  
30 is separately securable from any other structure attached to it,  
31 that is used for lodging, business, transportation, recreation or  
32 storage and in which one or more human beings either are or are  
33 likely to be present or so near as to be in equivalent danger at  
34 the time the discharge of a firearm occurs. Occupied structure  
35 includes any dwelling house, whether occupied, unoccupied or  
36 vacant.

37 (b) "Properly supervised range" means a range that is  
38 any of the following:

39 (i) Operated by a club affiliated with the  
40 National Rifle Association of America, the Amateur Trapshooting  
41 Association, the National Skeet Shooting Association or any other  
42 nationally recognized shooting organization or by any public or  
43 private school;



44 (ii) Approved by any agency of the federal  
45 government, this state or a county or city within which the range  
46 is located; or

47 (iii) Operated with adult supervision for shooting  
48 air or carbon dioxide gas-operated guns or for shooting in  
49 underground ranges on private or public property.

50 (c) "Public park" means any park owned or managed by a  
51 municipality or a governing body of a county.

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

