

By: Representative Banks

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 932

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-17-51 AND 97-17-61, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE CRIMES FOR TAKING THE DOG, CAT OR PET
3 OF ANOTHER PERSON; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-17-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 97-17-51. Every person who shall feloniously steal, take and
8 carry away any dog, * * * cat or other pet of another, shall be
9 subject to indictment therefor, and on conviction shall be
10 punished by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars
11 (\$500.00), or imprisoned in the county jail not more than six (6)
12 months, or both, or imprisoned in the Penitentiary not less than
13 one (1) year nor more than two (2) years.

14 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-17-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
15 amended as follows:

16 97-17-61. Any person who shall, without the consent of the
17 owner or his agent, take away any horse, mare, gelding, mule,
18 jack, jennet, sheep, cow, bull, ox, hog, or other livestock or



19 dog, cat, other animal or automobile, truck or other motor
20 vehicle, where such taking and carrying away shall not amount to
21 larceny, shall, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding One
22 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or be imprisoned not exceeding one
23 (1) year in the county jail, or both. A verdict of guilty of such
24 taking and carrying away may be rendered under an indictment for
25 larceny, if the evidence shall not warrant a verdict of guilty of
26 larceny but shall warrant a conviction under this section. This
27 section shall not apply to anyone who takes such property
28 believing, in good faith, that he has a right to it. The court
29 shall order any person convicted under this section to pay
30 restitution for any damage caused to any property as a result of
31 violating this section.

32 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2023.

