

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2093

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY
2 MAKES A FALSE REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE, ABANDONMENT OR NEGLECT MAY BE
3 CIVILLY LIABLE FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY
4 FEES AND COSTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) A person who knowingly, willfully and
7 maliciously makes a false report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect
8 of a child, or a person who, with malice, counsels another to make
9 a false report, may be civilly liable for damages suffered by the
10 subject of the report, including reasonable attorney fees and
11 costs, as a result of the filing of the false report.

12 (2) A report is false under this section if no rational
13 argument can be advanced in its support, when it is unsupported by
14 any credible evidence, when a reasonable person could not have
15 expected its success or when it is completely untenable.

16 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
17 and after July 1, 2023.

