

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: County Affairs;
Municipalities

SENATE BILL NO. 2145

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 17-25-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO PROHIBIT ANY LOCAL ORDINANCE THAT WOULD LEGALIZE CAMPING
3 ON STREETS, ROADS AND SIDEWALKS OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTY; TO
4 AMEND SECTIONS 97-35-23 AND 97-35-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
5 CLARIFY THE PROHIBITION ON CAMPING ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
9 17-25-37, Mississippi Code of 1972:

10 17-25-37. (1) Neither the board of supervisors of any
11 county nor the governing authority of any municipality shall
12 adopt, enact or enforce any ordinance authorizing camping on
13 streets, roads, sidewalks or any other public property.

14 (2) For the purposes of this section, the term "public
15 property" does not mean any government-owned or operated state,
16 local or federal campground, recreational campground or other such
17 facility where camping is an authorized activity.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-35-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:



20 97-35-23. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or
21 persons to intentionally obstruct, or interfere with the normal or
22 ordinary free use and passage of vehicles of or on, any public
23 street or highway provided for use by vehicular traffic, or for
24 any person or persons to intentionally obstruct, or interfere with
25 the normal or ordinary free use and passage of pedestrians of or
26 on any public sidewalk provided for foot travel by pedestrians,
27 including camping on a public sidewalk, and any person or persons
28 who do so * * * shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
29 conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than
30 Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00), or by imprisonment in the county
31 jail for not more than four (4) months, or by both such fine and
32 imprisonment.

33 (2) The provisions of this section are supplementary to the
34 provisions of any other statute of this state.

35 **SECTION 3.** Section 97-35-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
36 amended as follows:

37 97-35-25. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or
38 persons to * * * willfully obstruct the free, convenient and
39 normal use of any public sidewalk, street, highway, alley,
40 road * * * or other passageway by camping on the sidewalk or
41 impeding, hindering, stifling, retarding or restraining traffic or
42 passage thereon, and any person or persons violating the
43 provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and
44 upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more



45 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by confinement in the
46 county jail not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and
47 imprisonment.

48 (2) The provisions of this section are supplementary to the
49 provisions of any other statute of this state.

50 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2023.

