

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2827

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 97-5-38, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI FREE RANGE PARENTING ACT TO PROVIDE
 3 THAT IT SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED NEGLECT FOR A PARENT TO PERMIT A
 4 CHILD WHO IS OF SUFFICIENT AGE AND MATURITY TO AVOID HARM OR
 5 UNREASONABLE RISK OF HARM, TO ENGAGE IN INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES,
 6 INCLUDING TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL, INCLUDING BY WALKING,
 7 RUNNING OR BICYCLING, TRAVELING TO AND FROM NEARBY COMMERCIAL OR
 8 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND ENGAGING IN OUTDOOR PLAY; AND FOR
 9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
 12 97-5-38, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 97-5-38. (1) This section shall be known and may be cited
 14 as the "Mississippi Free Range Parenting Act."

15 (2) It shall not be considered neglect for a parent to
 16 permit a child who is of sufficient age and maturity to avoid harm
 17 or unreasonable risk of harm, to engage in independent activities,
 18 including:

19 (a) Traveling to and from school, including by walking,
 20 running or bicycling;



21 (b) Traveling to and from nearby commercial or
22 recreational facilities;

23 (c) Engaging in outdoor play;

24 (d) Remaining in a vehicle unattended;

25 (e) Remaining at home unattended; or

26 (f) Engaging in a similar independent activity.

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

