

By: Representatives Butler-Washington, Gibbs (72nd), James-Jones, Summers, Bell (65th), Holloway (27th), Nelson, Paden To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1297

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-27-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE THE ELEMENTS AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE CRIMES  
3 OF EXPOSING ANOTHER TO CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND ENDANGERMENT BY  
4 BODILY SUBSTANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 97-27-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 97-27-14. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to \* \* \*  
9 intentionally transmit an infectious disease to another  
10 person \* \* \*. Prior knowledge and willing consent to \* \* \*  
11 exposure to an infectious disease is a defense to a charge brought  
12 under this subsection. \* \* \* In addition, taking precautions to  
13 prevent transmission, including, but not limited to, viral  
14 suppression and the use of personal protective equipment, is a  
15 defense to a charge brought under this subsection.

16 (2) (a) A person commits the crime of endangerment by  
17 bodily substance if the person attempts to \* \* \* knowingly \* \* \*  
18 transmit an infectious disease to a corrections employee, a



19 visitor to a correctional facility or another prisoner or  
20 offender \* \* \*.

21 (b) As used in this subsection, the following  
22 definitions shall apply unless the context clearly requires  
23 otherwise:

24 (i) "Corrections employee" means a person who is  
25 an employee or contracted employee of a subcontractor of a  
26 department or agency responsible for operating a jail, prison,  
27 correctional facility or a person who is assigned to work in a  
28 jail, prison or correctional facility.

29 (ii) "Offender" means a person who is in the  
30 custody of the Department of Corrections.

31 (iii) "Prisoner" means a person confined in a  
32 county or city jail.

33 \* \* \*

34 (3) For purposes of this section, the term "infectious  
35 disease" means a disease potentially caused by a pathogenic  
36 organism which is acquired by a person and reproduces in that  
37 person.

38 \* \* \*

39 (4) \* \* \* A violation of this section shall be punished by  
40 imprisonment in the county jail for up to one (1) year and may be  
41 fined One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both.



42           (5) The provisions of this section shall be in addition to  
43 any other provisions of law for which the actions described in  
44 this section may be prosecuted.

45           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
46 and after July 1, 2024.

