

By: Representative McKnight

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1323

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-1-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REMOVE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR PROSECUTION OF THE CRIME OF  
3 SEXUAL BATTERY OF A VULNERABLE PERSON; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 99-1-5. (1) (a) The passage of time shall never bar  
8 prosecution against any person for the offenses of murder,  
9 manslaughter, aggravated assault, aggravated domestic violence,  
10 kidnapping, arson, burglary, forgery, counterfeiting, robbery,  
11 larceny, rape, embezzlement, obtaining money or property under  
12 false pretenses or by fraud, felonious abuse or battery of a child  
13 as described in Section 97-5-39, touching or handling a child for  
14 lustful purposes as described in Section 97-5-23, sexual battery  
15 of a child as described in Section 97-3-95(1)(c), (d) or (2),  
16 exploitation of children as described in Section 97-5-33,  
17 promoting prostitution under Section 97-29-51(2) when the person  
18 involved is a minor, felonious abuse of vulnerable persons, as



19 described in Sections 43-47-18 and 43-47-19 or any human  
20 trafficking offense as described in Section 97-3-54.1(1) (a),  
21 (1) (b) or (1) (c), Section 97-3-54.2, or Section 97-3-54.3 \* \* \* or

22 (b) A person shall not be prosecuted for felonious  
23 assistance-program fraud, as described in Section 97-19-71, \* \* \*  
24 unless the prosecution for the offense is commenced within five  
25 (5) years \* \* \* after the commission thereof.

26 (c) A person shall not be prosecuted for larceny of  
27 timber as described in Section 97-17-59, unless the prosecution  
28 for the offense is commenced within six (6) years \* \* \* after the  
29 commission thereof.

30 (d) The time limitation on prosecution for conspiracy,  
31 as described in Section 97-1-1, shall be the same as for the  
32 underlying offense for which the defendant is accused of  
33 conspiring to commit.

34 (e) A person shall not be prosecuted for bribery as  
35 defined in Section 97-11-11, unless the prosecution for the  
36 offense is commenced within five (5) years after the commission  
37 thereof.

38 (2) A person shall not be prosecuted for any other offense  
39 not listed in this section unless the prosecution for the offense  
40 is commenced within two (2) years \* \* \* after the commission  
41 thereof.

42 (3) Nothing contained in this section shall bar any  
43 prosecution against any person who shall abscond or flee from



44 justice, or shall absent himself from this state or out of the  
45 jurisdiction of the court, or so conduct himself that he cannot be  
46 found by the officers of the law, or that process cannot be served  
47 upon him.

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

