

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) Nothing contained in this section shall bar any
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.

