

By: Representative McLean

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1365

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 97-35-23 AND 97-35-25, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE PENALTIES FOR OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC STREETS
3 AND ROADWAYS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 97-35-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 97-35-23. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or
8 persons to intentionally obstruct, or interfere with the normal or
9 ordinary free use and passage of vehicles of or on, any public
10 street or highway provided for use by vehicular traffic, or for
11 any person or persons to intentionally obstruct, or interfere with
12 the normal or ordinary free use and passage of pedestrians of or
13 on any public sidewalk provided for foot travel by pedestrians,
14 and any person or persons who so do shall be guilty of a * * *
15 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine
16 of not * * * less than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
17 (1,500.00), or by imprisonment in the * * * custody of the



18 Department of Corrections for not less than one (1) year nor more
19 than two (2) years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

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

22 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-35-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
23 amended as follows:

24 97-35-25. (1) It shall be unlawful for any person or
25 persons to * * * willfully obstruct the free, convenient and
26 normal use of any public sidewalk, street, highway, alley,
27 road * * * or other passageway by impeding, hindering, stifling,
28 retarding or restraining traffic or passage thereon, and any
29 person or persons violating the provisions of this section shall
30 be guilty of a * * * felony, and upon conviction thereof, shall be
31 punished by a fine of not * * * less than * * * One Thousand Five
32 Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) or by confinement in the * * * custody
33 of the Department of Corrections for not less than one (1) year
34 nor more than two (2) years, or by both such fine and
35 imprisonment.

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

38 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2024.

