

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2023

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-3-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
 2 PROVIDE THAT THE CRIME OF IMPERSONATING A PATROLMAN SHALL BE A  
 3 FELONY; TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE CRIME  
 4 OF IMPERSONATING A PATROLMAN; TO AMEND SECTION 97-7-44,  
 5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CRIME OF  
 6 IMPERSONATING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL BE A FELONY; TO  
 7 INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR IMPERSONATING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;  
 8 TO REPEAL SECTION 97-7-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH  
 9 PROVIDES FOR THE OFFENSE OF IMPERSONATING STATE, COUNTY OR  
 10 MUNICIPAL OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES AND IS A DUPLICATIVE SECTION; AND  
 11 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-3-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 14 amended as follows:

15 45-3-29. (1) Except as otherwise authorized under this  
 16 section, it shall be unlawful for any person not authorized so to  
 17 do to impersonate a state highway safety patrolman, wear or use  
 18 the insignia or uniform thereof, or to in anywise imitate or  
 19 impersonate such patrolman. Any person adjudged guilty of  
 20 violating this section shall be guilty of a \* \* \*felony and upon  
 21 conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \* \* \*  
 22 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment in the \* \* \*



23 custody of the Department of Corrections \* \* \* for a term not  
24 exceeding \* \* \* three (3) years, or by both such fine and  
25 imprisonment. Nothing in this section, however, shall be  
26 construed to prevent or preclude the boards of supervisors of the  
27 several counties from employing county highway patrolmen as  
28 presently authorized by law, and said county patrolmen shall, when  
29 authorized by the commissioner and under rules and regulations  
30 with respect thereto, after completing such examinations and  
31 meeting such requirements as are specified by the commissioner, be  
32 entitled to wear the uniform and insignia of state highway safety  
33 patrolmen and discharge the duties thereof.

34 (2) It shall not be unlawful or a violation of this section  
35 for a retired state highway safety patrol officer to wear the  
36 uniform and insignia of the state highway safety patrol when  
37 making presentations, delivering speeches or addressing public or  
38 private audiences for the purpose of entertaining or amusing such  
39 audiences provided such retired officer obtains written  
40 authorization from the Commissioner of Public Safety before  
41 engaging in such events. The approval of the commissioner shall  
42 not be required for each separate event but shall remain effective  
43 as an authorization for all such events until revoked or rescinded  
44 by the commissioner.

45 **SECTION 2.** Section 97-7-44, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
46 amended as follows:



47           97-7-44. (1) Any person who falsely and willfully assumes  
48 or pretends to be an officer or employee acting under the  
49 authority of the State of Mississippi or any department, agency or  
50 officer thereof; or of any county, municipality or any other  
51 subdivision of the State of Mississippi, or of any department  
52 agency or officer of such county, municipality or subdivision,  
53 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and punished for each separate  
54 such offense by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars  
55 (\$500.00) or by imprisonment of not more than six (6) months in  
56 jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

57           (2) Any person who violates this section by willfully  
58 assuming or pretending to be a law enforcement officer shall be  
59 guilty of a felony and shall be subject to a fine of not more than  
60 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or by imprisonment in the  
61 custody of the Department of Corrections for a term not exceeding  
62 three (3) years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

63           **SECTION 3.** Section 97-7-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, which  
64 provides for the offense of impersonating state, county or  
65 municipal officers or employees, is repealed.

66           **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
67 and after July 1, 2024.

