

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2034

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY  
2 MAKES A FALSE REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE, ABANDONMENT OR NEGLECT MAY BE  
3 CIVILLY LIABLE FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY  
4 FEES AND COSTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) A person who knowingly, willfully and  
7 maliciously makes a false report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect  
8 of a child, or a person who, with malice, counsels another to make  
9 a false report, may be civilly liable for damages suffered by the  
10 subject of the report, including reasonable attorney fees and  
11 costs, as a result of the filing of the false report.

12 (2) A report is false under this section if no rational  
13 argument can be advanced in its support, when it is unsupported by  
14 any credible evidence, when a reasonable person could not have  
15 expected its success or when it is completely untenable.

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

