

By: Representative Ladner

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 397

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT WILLFUL FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT A
2 FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR WAS COMMITTED BECAUSE OF THE ACTUAL OR
3 PERCEIVED RACE, COLOR, ANCESTRY, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, NATIONAL
4 ORIGIN OR GENDER OF ANY PERSON SHALL BE UNLAWFUL; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to willfully
8 and knowingly make false allegations that a felony or misdemeanor
9 crime was committed because of the actual or perceived race,
10 color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, national origin or gender of
11 any person. Any person who violates the provisions of this
12 section shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, shall be
13 imprisoned in the custody of the Department of Corrections for no
14 less than one (1) year, no more than five (5) years, fined no less
15 than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) plus any additional amounts
16 for attorney's fees, costs for law enforcement compensation, court
17 costs and/or court fees created or caused as a result of the
18 allegations.

19 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
20 and after July 1, 2025.

