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To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 678

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI DOXXING PREVENTION ACT; TO
 2 PROHIBIT THE INTENTIONAL AND WILLFUL DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL
 3 INFORMATION OF CERTAIN PERSONS; TO AMEND SECTION 25-61-12,
 4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXEMPT THE INFORMATION OF CERTAIN
 5 PERSONS FROM THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION
 6 13-5-16, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH REGULATES THE RANDOM
 7 DRAWING OF JURORS, FOR PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
 8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) This bill shall be known and may be cited as
 11 the "Mississippi Doxxing Prevention Act."

12 (2) For purposes of this act, the following words shall have
 13 the meanings described herein:

14 (a) "Covered person" means:

15 (i) Any law enforcement officer of any state
 16 agency, hospital, county, municipality, public two-year or
 17 four-year college or university and any extension thereof in the
 18 State of Mississippi;

19 (ii) An officer or employee of the State of
 20 Mississippi, or any officer or employee of any county,



21 municipality, or political subdivision of the State of
22 Mississippi;

23 (iii) A grand or petit juror, witness, or other
24 officer in or of, any court of the State of Mississippi, or an
25 officer who may be, or was, serving at any proceeding before any
26 court of the State of Mississippi; or

27 (iv) An informant or witness in a criminal
28 investigation or prosecution.

29 (b) "Crime of violence" means a crime specified in
30 Section 97-3-2.

31 (c) "Close relation" means a current or former spouse
32 or domestic partner, a parent, a stepparent, a child, a stepchild,
33 a sibling, a grandparent, any person who regularly resides in the
34 household or who within the prior six (6) months regularly resided
35 in the household, or any person with a significant personal or
36 professional relationship.

37 (d) "Restricted personal information" means, with
38 respect to an individual, the Social Security number, the home
39 address, home phone number, mobile phone number, personal email,
40 or home fax number of, and identifiable to, that individual.

41 (3) Whoever knowingly makes restricted personal information
42 about a covered person, or a close relation of that covered
43 person, publicly available:



44 (a) With the intent to harass, threaten, intimidate, or
45 incite the commission of a crime against that covered person, or a
46 close relation of that covered person; or

47 (b) With the intent and knowledge that the restricted
48 personal information will be used to harass, threaten, intimidate,
49 or facilitate the commission of nonviolent a crime against that
50 covered person, or a close relation of that covered person, shall,
51 upon conviction for a first offense, be guilty of a misdemeanor,
52 and fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00),
53 imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six (6) months, or
54 both. For a second or subsequent conviction, the person shall be
55 guilty of a felony and punished by a fine of not more than Ten
56 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or by imprisonment in the custody of
57 the Mississippi Department of Corrections for not more than five
58 (5) years, or both.

59 (c) If the crime against the covered person is a crime
60 of violence, as specified by Section 97-3-2, then the punishment
61 shall not be more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00),
62 imprisonment by not more than ten (10) years, or both.

63 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-61-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
64 amended as follows:

65 25-61-12. (1) The home address, any telephone number of a
66 privately paid account or other private information of any law
67 enforcement officer, criminal investigator, judge or district
68 attorney, or the spouse or child of the law enforcement officer,



69 criminal investigator, judge * * *, district attorney or covered
70 person as defined by Section 1 of this act, shall be exempt from
71 the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983. This exemption does
72 not apply to any court transcript or recording if given under oath
73 and not otherwise excluded by law.

74 (2) (a) When in the possession of a law enforcement agency,
75 investigative reports shall be exempt from the provisions of this
76 chapter; however, a law enforcement agency, in its discretion, may
77 choose to make public all or any part of any investigative report.

78 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
79 prevent any and all public bodies from having among themselves a
80 free flow of information for the purpose of achieving a
81 coordinated and effective detection and investigation of unlawful
82 activity. Where the confidentiality of records covered by this
83 section is being determined in a private hearing before a judge
84 under Section 25-61-13, the public body may redact or separate
85 from the records the identity of confidential informants or the
86 identity of the person or persons under investigation or other
87 information other than the nature of the incident, time, date and
88 location.

89 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
90 exempt from public disclosure a law enforcement incident report.
91 An incident report shall be a public record. A law enforcement
92 agency may release information in addition to the information
93 contained in the incident report.



94 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to
95 require the disclosure of information that would reveal the
96 identity of the victim.

97 (3) Personal information of victims, including victim impact
98 statements and letters of support on behalf of victims that are
99 contained in records on file with the Mississippi Department of
100 Corrections and State Parole Board, shall be exempt from the
101 provisions of this chapter.

102 (4) Records of a public hospital board relating to the
103 purchase or sale of medical or other practices or other business
104 operations, and the recruitment of physicians and other health
105 care professionals, shall be exempt from the provisions of this
106 chapter.

107 (5) All "restricted personal information" of a "covered
108 person" as the terms are defined in Section 1 of this act shall be
109 exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

110 **SECTION 3.** Section 13-5-16, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
111 brought forward as follows:

112 13-5-16. (1) Except as otherwise provided by subsection (2)
113 of this section, from time to time and in a manner prescribed by
114 the court, a private citizen who does not have an interest in a
115 case pending trial and who is not a practicing attorney publicly
116 shall draw at random from the jury wheel the names or identifying
117 numbers of as many prospective jurors as the court by order
118 requires. The clerk shall prepare an alphabetical list of the



119 names drawn. Neither the names drawn nor the list shall be
120 disclosed to any person other than pursuant to this chapter or
121 specific order of the court.

122 (2) The court may order that the drawing of names or
123 identifying numbers pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may
124 be performed by random selection of a computer or electronic
125 device pursuant to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed
126 by the court.

127 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
128 and after July 1, 2025.

