

By: Representatives Grady, Aguirre, Burch,
Felsher, Hall, Hawkins, Lott, McMillan

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1229

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON, AFTER
2 BEING WARNED, TO HARASS A FIRST RESPONDER; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES
3 FOR VIOLATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the
6 following terms shall have the meanings described herein:

7 (a) "First responder" means and includes a law
8 enforcement officer, correctional probation officer, firefighter,
9 and an emergency medical care provider.

10 (b) "Harass" means to willfully engage in a course of
11 conduct directed at a first responder which intentionally causes
12 substantial emotional distress in that first responder and serves
13 no legitimate purpose.

14 (2) (a) It is unlawful for a person, after receiving a
15 verbal warning not to approach from a person he or she knows or
16 reasonably should know is a first responder, who is engaged in the
17 lawful performance of a legal duty, to knowingly and willfully
18 violate such warning and approach or remain within



19 twenty-five (25) feet of the first responder with the intent to:
20 (i) Impede or interfere with the first responder's
21 ability to perform such duty;
22 (ii) Threaten the first responder with physical
23 harm; or
24 (iii) Harass the first responder.
25 (b) A person who violates this subsection shall be
26 guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than One Thousand
27 Dollars (\$1,000.00), imprisoned in the county jail for no more
28 than six (6) months, or both.
29 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
30 and after July 1, 2025.

