

By: Senator(s) England

To: Judiciary, Division B

SENATE BILL NO. 2305

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI HALO LAW FOR FIRST
2 RESPONDERS; TO PROVIDE THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR A PERSON, AFTER
3 RECEIVING A VERBAL WARNING NOT TO APPROACH FROM A FIRST RESPONDER
4 TO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY APPROACH THE FIRST RESPONDER WITH THE
5 INTENT TO IMPEDE OR INTERFERE WITH THE FIRST RESPONDER'S DUTY,
6 THREATEN THE FIRST RESPONDER, OR HARASS THE FIRST RESPONDER; TO
7 PROVIDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES; TO DEFINE TERMS; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) This law shall be known and may be cited as
11 the "Mississippi Halo Law for First Responders."

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

18 (i) Impede or interfere with the first responder's
19 ability to perform such duty;

20 (ii) Threaten the first responder with physical
21 harm; or



22 (iii) Harass the first responder.

23 (3) A person who violates this subsection commits a
24 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be shall be fined not more
25 than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned in the county
26 jail for not more than one (1) year, or both.

27 (4) As used in this section, the terms shall have the
28 meaning herein ascribed:

29 (a) "First responder" includes a law enforcement
30 officer, a correctional probation officer, a firefighter, and an
31 emergency medical care provider.

32 (b) "Harass" means to willfully engage in a course of
33 conduct directed at a first responder which intentionally causes
34 substantial emotional distress in that first responder and serves
35 no legitimate purpose.

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

