

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2578

1 AN ACT TO CREATE SECTION 25-61-11.3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO EXEMPT TEXT MESSAGES FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC RECORDS ACT, UNLESS THE MESSAGES ARE RELATED TO
4 THE BUSINESS OF THE PUBLIC BODY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
7 25-61-11.3, Mississippi Code of 1972:

8 25-61-11.3. Text, short message service (SMS), multimedia
9 messaging service (MMS) or rich communication service (RCS)
10 messages on personal phones or devices are exempt from the Public
11 Records Act as provided in Section 25-61-2, unless the messages
12 are about public business and either have been prepared by a
13 member of the public body, prepared for a member of the public
14 body, used by a member of the public body, received by a member of
15 the public body, possessed by a member of the public body or
16 controlled by a member of the public body.

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