

By: Representative Bourdeaux

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 657

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-17-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT A DEFENDANT MAY BE TRIED IN ABSENTIA WHO RECEIVED A
3 NOTICE AND FAILED TO APPEAR AT THE APPOINTED TIME; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 99-17-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 99-17-9. In criminal cases a defendant may waive the right
9 to be present at any proceeding by voluntarily absenting himself
10 or herself from it. The court may infer that an absence is
11 voluntary if the defendant had personal notice of the time of the
12 proceeding, the right to be present at it, and a warning that the
13 proceeding would go forward in his or her absence should he or she
14 fail to appear.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
16 and after July 1, 1999.