

By: Holland

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 590

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-17-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES FOR TIMBER THEFT; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 97-17-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:[BD1]

7 97-17-59. (1) Any person who shall knowingly, willfully and
8 feloniously take, steal and carry away from the lands of another
9 any merchantable timber on the property of another, of the value
10 of less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), whether such
11 timber is growing, standing or lying on the lands, shall be guilty
12 of a misdemeanor; and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished
13 by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more
14 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the
15 county jail for a term of not less than thirty (30) days nor more
16 than one hundred (100) days, or both, in the discretion of the
17 court.

18 (2) Any person who shall knowingly, willfully and
19 feloniously take, steal and carry away from the lands of another
20 any merchantable timber on the property of another, of the value
21 of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) or more, whether such

22 timber is growing, standing, or lying on the lands, shall be
23 guilty of a felony; and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished
24 by a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) nor
25 more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or by imprisonment in
26 the Penitentiary for a term of not less than one (1) year nor more
27 than five (5) years, or both, in the discretion of the court.

28 (3) An individual, upon conviction, shall be subject to
29 paying restitution to the victim in the amount determined by the
30 court.

31 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
32 and after July 1, 2000.