

By: Holland

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 590  
(As Passed the House)

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.