

By: Representative Zuber

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 424

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT IF A PUBLIC BODY HAS VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF
3 THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW, THE PREVAILING PARTY IN A CHANCERY COURT
4 ACTION SHALL BE AWARDED REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES
5 INCURRED IN BRINGING THE ACTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 25-41-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 25-41-15. The chancery courts of this state shall have the
10 authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter upon
11 application of any citizen of the state, and shall have the
12 authority to issue injunctions or writs of mandamus to accomplish
13 that purpose. If a court finds that a public body has violated
14 the provisions of this chapter, it shall award to the prevailing
15 party the reasonable expenses incurred in bringing the action
16 against the public body, including the award of attorneys' fees
17 and any other legitimate costs or fees expended.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
19 and after July 1, 2001.

