

By: Representative Fredericks

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 642
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 99-1-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REMOVE THE TIME LIMITATION ON PROSECUTING SEXUAL OFFENSES AGAINST
3 CHILDREN; TO REVISE THE TIME FOR PROSECUTING RAPE; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 99-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 99-1-5. A person shall not be prosecuted for any offense,
9 with the exception of murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault,
10 kidnapping, arson, burglary, forgery, counterfeiting, robbery,
11 larceny, * * * embezzlement, obtaining money or property under
12 false pretenses or by fraud, felonious abuse or battery of a child
13 as described in Section 97-5-39, touching or handling a child for
14 lustful purposes as described in Section 97-5-23, sexual battery
15 of a child as described in Section 97-3-95(c) or exploitation of
16 children as described in Section 97-5-33, unless the prosecution
17 for such offense be commenced within two (2) years next after the
18 commission thereof, but nothing contained in this section shall
19 bar any prosecution against any person who shall abscond or flee
20 from justice, or shall absent himself from this state or out of
21 the jurisdiction of the court, or so conduct himself that he
22 cannot be found by the officers of the law, or that process cannot
23 be served upon him.

24 *Any prosecution for rape as described in Section 97-3-65*
25 *shall be commenced within ten (10) years after the commission of*
26 *the act.*

27 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2003.

