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Chapter No. 351  
10/HR03/R1310.1  
CT 1 9P

***HOUSE BILL NO. 976***

Originated in House Don Richardson Clerk

HOUSE BILL NO. 976

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-7-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE OFFENSE OF DEFACING, REMOVING OR DESTROYING SIGNS INCLUDES MEMORIAL, HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MARKERS OR SIGNS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 65-7-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

65-7-23. (1) Any person willfully defacing, removing, marring, damaging or destroying any sign or guide board, including any railroad crossing sign or flasher signal, or other traffic control device erected as provided shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be liable for the actual cost of replacing or repairing such sign and shall be fined not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or be imprisoned in the county jail not more than six (6) months, or be punished by both such fine and imprisonment. If the offender is a minor, the parents of such minor shall be civilly liable in accordance with Section 93-13-2 for the actual cost of replacing or repairing the sign, signal or device.

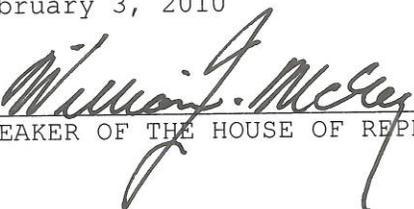
(2) The penalties prescribed in subsection (1) of this section shall also be applicable to any person, and to the parents of any minor, who willfully defaces, mars or damages any bridge, underpass or overpass.

(3) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section regarding a memorial, other historical or cultural marker or sign, the value of which is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or more,

shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned in the county jail for up to six (6) months or fined up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or both. Such person shall also be ordered to make full restitution.

**SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2010.

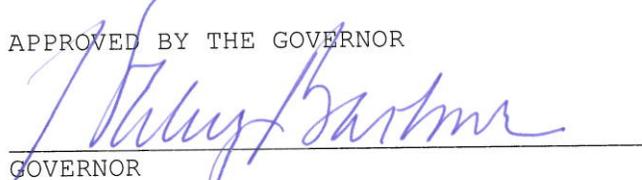
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
February 3, 2010

  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PASSED BY THE SENATE  
March 3, 2010

  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR

3/15/10

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