MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2021

By: Senator(s) Wiggins To: Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2613

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-21-355, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN AN INVESTIGATION, EVALUATION, OR JUDICIAL PROCEEDING RESULTING FROM A REQUIRED REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE SHALL BE PRESUMED TO BE ACTING IN GOOD FAITH; TO PROVIDE CIVIL IMMUNITY TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO PARTICIPATE IN AN INVESTIGATION, EVALUATION OR JUDICIAL PROCEEDING RESULTING FROM A REPORT OF CHILD ABUSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 43-21-355, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

43-21-355. Any attorney, physician, dentist, intern, resident, nurse, psychologist, social worker, family protection worker, family protection specialist, child caregiver, minister, law enforcement officer, school attendance officer, public school district employee, nonpublic school employee, licensed professional counselor or any other person participating in the making of a required report pursuant to Section 43-21-353 or participating in <u>an investigation, evaluation or</u> the judicial proceeding resulting therefrom shall be presumed to be acting in good faith. Any person or institution reporting <u>or participating</u>

in an investigation, evaluation or judicial proceeding resulting from a report in good faith shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2021.

ST: Civil immunity; provide to participants of child-abuse investigations, evaluations or judicial proceedings.