

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Ports and Marine
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2805

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-15-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE FOR AN ARTIFICIAL REEF DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE
3 COMMISSION ON MARINE RESOURCES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT
4 ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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6 SECTION 1. Section 49-15-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 49-15-17. (1) (a) All monies received or obtained by the
9 commission under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid over
10 by the commission to the State Treasurer and shall be deposited
11 into the fund known as the "Seafood Fund." All revenues collected
12 through the department, to include, but not limited to, commercial
13 saltwater licenses and taxes, permits, fines and penalties, and
14 confiscated catches, shall be deposited into the department
15 operating account (Seafood Fund) and expended for the operation of
16 the department, as authorized by the Legislature.

17 (b) There is established a special account to be known
18 as the "Artificial Reef Development Account" within the seafood
19 fund. Any funds received from any public or private source for
20 the purpose of promoting, constructing, monitoring or maintaining
21 artificial reefs in the marine waters of the state or in federal
22 waters adjacent to the marine waters of the state shall be
23 credited to the account. Any funds in the account shall not lapse
24 into the General fund at the end of the fiscal year but shall
25 remain in the account. The commission may expend the funds,
26 subject to appropriation by the Legislature, to accomplish the
27 purpose of the account.

28 (2) The fund shall be treated as a special trust fund and
29 interest earned on the principal shall be credited to the fund.

30 (3) The secretary of the commission shall keep accurate
31 reports of monies handled as a part of the permanent records of
32 the commission, and the State Treasurer shall furnish the
33 secretary of the commission such forms as may be needed, and the
34 secretary shall account for such forms in his reports to the
35 treasurer.

36 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after its passage.