

By: Senator(s) Ross, Thames, Harvey, Stogner To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2831

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
2 NATURAL PRODUCTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI TO CREATE A
3 THREE-YEAR PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED
4 AT THE CENTER IN THE AREA OF MEDICINAL PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS
5 TO THE SMALL FARMER IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO REQUIRE THE
6 CENTER TO FILE A REPORT WITH THE LEGISLATURE AFTER THE COMPLETION
7 OF THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT
8 ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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10 SECTION 1. (1) The National Center for the Development of
11 Natural Products at the University of Mississippi, hereinafter
12 referred to as the "Center", is authorized to create a three-year
13 program to improve the transfer of technology developed at the
14 Center in the area of medicinal plants and plant products to the
15 small farmer in the State of Mississippi. This program shall
16 consist of research and development to identify medicinal plants
17 that can be grown on small farms in the State of Mississippi, and
18 shall also develop processes that can be conducted in the State of
19 Mississippi to add value to medicinal plants.

20 (2) The Center shall select not more than four (4) medicinal
21 plants as candidates for a pilot study to demonstrate that they
22 can be successfully cultivated in the State of Mississippi through
23 one (1) to two (2) growing seasons. The medicinal plants will be
24 selected based on specific, relevant criteria, such as: the
25 potential to be grown and managed on small Mississippi farms, the
26 start-up costs and the long-term market demand. The Center will
27 identify the perceived barriers to the introduction of these new
28 crops.

29 (3) The Center shall also undertake a project within this

30 program to carry out value-added development research on no more
31 than two (2) medicinal plant-derived products or processes. The
32 Center will examine the chemistry and biology of selected
33 medicinal plants and then identify high-yield quality plant lines,
34 determine the best conditions for harvesting, post-harvest
35 processing and storage to obtain optimal chemical profiles and
36 biological effects, investigate potential markets for medicinal
37 plant products, and carry out crop improvement studies of a
38 genetic and agronomic nature. This information will be used to
39 provide the basis for developing additional medicinal plant
40 products and for use in developing a medicinal plant processing
41 industry in the state.

42 (4) The Center shall file with the Legislature after the
43 three-year project is completed a report which shall state the
44 successes and failures of the program. The report shall also
45 contain a determination of the economic impact of the program to
46 the state, and of whether or not any additional capacity has been
47 created for on-farm production of these new medicinal plants on
48 small farms in the state, as well as, whether or not any
49 additional or new processing industry resulted in the state from
50 this program.

51 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 1999.