By: Stringer

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 567

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-65-75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 2 TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF A PERCENTAGE OF SALES TAX REVENUES 3 GENERATED FROM BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITIES TO THE 4 COUNTIES IN WHICH SUCH BUSINESS ACTIVITIES OCCURRED; TO AMEND 5 SECTION 27-65-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; 6 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: SECTION 1. Section 27-65-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

10 [Until July 1, 2002, this section reads as follows:]

11 27-65-75. On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the 12 revenue collected under the provisions of this chapter during the 13 preceding month shall be paid and distributed as follows:

(1) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month 14 15 thereafter through July 15, 1993, eighteen percent (18%) of the 16 total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the 17 provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on 18 19 business activities within a municipal corporation shall be 20 allocated for distribution to such municipality and paid to such 21 municipal corporation. On or before August 15, 1993, and each 22 succeeding month thereafter, eighteen and one-half percent 23 (18-1/2%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the

preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on business activities within a municipal corporation shall be allocated for distribution to such municipality and paid to such municipal corporation.

A municipal corporation, for the purpose of distributing the tax under this subsection, shall mean and include all incorporated cities, towns and villages.

Monies allocated for distribution and credited to a municipal corporation under this subsection may be pledged as security for any loan received by the municipal corporation for the purpose of capital improvements as authorized under Section 57-1-303, or loans as authorized under Section 57-44-7, or water systems improvements as authorized under Section 41-3-16.

In any county having a county seat which is not an incorporated municipality, the distribution provided hereunder shall be made as though the county seat was an incorporated municipality; however, the distribution to such municipality shall be paid to the county treasury wherein the municipality is located and such funds shall be used for road, bridge and street construction or maintenance therein.

(2) On or before September 15, 1987, and each succeeding 45 46 month thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter during the preceding month One Million One Hundred Twenty-five 47 Thousand Dollars (\$1,125,000.00) shall be allocated for 48 distribution to municipal corporations as defined under subsection 49 50 (1) of this section in the proportion that the number of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to consumers and 51 52 retailers in each such municipality during the preceding fiscal 53 year bears to the total gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to consumers and retailers in municipalities 54

55 statewide during the preceding fiscal year. The State Tax 56 Commission shall require all distributors of gasoline and diesel 57 fuel to report to the commission monthly the total number of 58 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by them to consumers and 59 retailers in each municipality during the preceding month. The 60 State Tax Commission shall have the authority to promulgate such 61 rules and regulations as is necessary to determine the number of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to 62 63 consumers and retailers in each municipality. In determining the 64 percentage allocation of funds under this subsection for the 65 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1987, and ending June 30, 1988, the 66 State Tax Commission may consider gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold for a period of less than one (1) fiscal year. For the 67 purposes of this subsection, the term "fiscal year" means the 68 69 fiscal year beginning July 1 of a year.

70 (3) On or before September 15, 1987, and on or before the 71 fifteenth day of each succeeding month, until the date specified 72 in Section 65-39-35, the proceeds derived from contractors' taxes levied under Section 27-65-21 on contracts for the construction or 73 74 reconstruction of highways designated under the Four-Lane Highway Program created under Section 65-3-97 shall, except as otherwise 75 76 provided in Section 31-17-127, be deposited into the State 77 Treasury to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be used to 78 fund such Four-Lane Highway Program. The Mississippi Department 79 of Transportation shall provide to the State Tax Commission such 80 information as is necessary to determine the amount of proceeds to be distributed under this subsection. 81

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(4) On or before August 15, 1994, and on or before the

83 fifteenth day of each succeeding month through July 15, 1999, from 84 the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes as provided in Section 27-5-101(a)(ii)1, Four Million Dollars 85 86 (\$4,000,000.00) shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the 87 credit of a special fund designated as the "State Aid Road Fund," created by Section 65-9-17. On or before August 15, 1999, and on 88 89 or before the fifteenth day of each succeeding month, from the total amount of the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene 90 taxes apportioned by Section 27-5-101(a)(ii), Four Million Dollars 91 92 (\$4,000,000.00) or an amount equal to twenty-three and one-fourth 93 percent (23.25%) of such funds, whichever is the greater amount, 94 shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the 95 "State Aid Road Fund," created by Section 65-9-17. Such funds 96 shall be pledged to pay the principal of and interest on state aid 97 road bonds heretofore issued under Sections 19-9-51 through 19-9-77, in lieu of and in substitution for the funds heretofore 98 99 allocated to counties under this section. Such funds may not be 100 pledged for the payment of any state aid road bonds issued after 101 April 1, 1981; however, this prohibition against the pledging of 102 any such funds for the payment of bonds shall not apply to any 103 bonds for which intent to issue such bonds has been published, for 104 the first time, as provided by law prior to March 29, 1981. From 105 the amount of taxes paid into the special fund pursuant to this 106 subsection and subsection (9) of this section, there shall be 107 first deducted and paid the amount necessary to pay the expenses 108 of the Office of State Aid Road Construction, as authorized by the 109 Legislature for all other general and special fund agencies. The 110 remainder of the fund shall be allocated monthly to the several

111 counties in accordance with the following formula:

(a) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to all counties in equal shares;

(b) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to counties
based on the proportion that the total number of rural road miles
in a county bears to the total number of rural road miles in all
counties of the state; and

(c) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to counties based on the proportion that the rural population of the county bears to the total rural population in all counties of the state, according to the latest federal decennial census.

For the purposes of this subsection, the term "gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes" means such taxes as defined in paragraph (f) of Section 27-5-101.

125 The amount of funds allocated to any county under this subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 1994 shall not be 126 127 less than the amount allocated to such county for fiscal year 128 1994. Monies allocated to a county from the State Aid Road Fund for fiscal year 1995 or any fiscal year thereafter that exceed the 129 130 amount of funds allocated to that county from the State Aid Road Fund for fiscal year 1994, first must be expended by the county 131 132 for replacement or rehabilitation of bridges on the state aid road 133 system that have a sufficiency rating of less than twenty-five 134 (25), according to National Bridge Inspection standards before 135 such monies may be approved for expenditure by the State Aid Road 136 Engineer on other projects that qualify for the use of state aid 137 road funds.

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Any reference in the general laws of this state or the

Mississippi Code of 1972 to Section 27-5-105 shall mean and be construed to refer and apply to subsection (4) of Section 27-65-75.

(5) One Million Six Hundred Sixty-six Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,666,666.00) each month shall be paid into the special fund known as the "State Public School Building Fund" created and existing under the provisions of Sections 37-47-1 through 37-47-67. Such payments into said fund are to be made on the last day of each succeeding month hereafter.

148 (6) An amount each month beginning August 15, 1983, through
149 November 15, 1986, as specified in Section 6 of Chapter 542, Laws
150 of 1983, shall be paid into the special fund known as the
151 Correctional Facilities Construction Fund created in Section 6 of
152 Chapter 542, Laws of 1983.

(7) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month thereafter, two and two hundred sixty-six one-thousandths percent (2.266%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall be deposited by the commission into the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund created pursuant to Section 37-61-35.

160 (8) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month 161 thereafter, nine and seventy-three one-thousandths percent 162 (9.073%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the 163 preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that 164 collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall be 165 deposited into the Education Enhancement Fund created pursuant to 166 Section 37-61-33.

167 (9) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month
168 thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter during
169 the preceding month, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
170 (\$250,000.00) shall be paid into the State Aid Road Fund.

(10) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month thereafter through August 15, 1995, from the revenue collected under this chapter during the preceding month, Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105.

176 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to 177 the contrary, on or before February 15, 1995, and each succeeding 178 month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the 179 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) and the corresponding levy in Section 27-65-23 on the rental or lease 180 181 of private carriers of passengers and light carriers of property as defined in Section 27-51-101 shall be deposited, without 182 183 diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund 184 established in Section 27-51-105.

(12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to 185 186 the contrary, on or before August 15, 1995, and each succeeding month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the 187 188 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(1) on 189 retail sales of private carriers of passengers and light carriers 190 of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101 and the corresponding 191 levy in Section 27-65-23 on the rental or lease of these vehicles, shall be deposited, after diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad 192 193 Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105. 194 (13) On or before July 15, 1994, and on or before the

195 fifteenth day of each succeeding month thereafter, that portion of 196 the avails of the tax imposed in Section 27-65-22, which is 197 derived from activities held on the Mississippi state fairgrounds 198 complex, shall be paid into a special fund hereby created in the 199 State Treasury and shall be expended pursuant to legislative 200 appropriations solely to defray the costs of repairs and 201 renovation at such Trade Mart and Coliseum.

(14) On or before August 15, 1998, and each succeeding month thereafter through July 15, 2005, that portion of the avails of the tax imposed in Section 27-65-23 which is derived from sales by cotton compresses or cotton warehouses and which would otherwise be paid into the General Fund, shall be deposited in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) into the special fund created pursuant to Section 69-37-39.

209 (15) On or before August 15, 2000, and each succeeding month thereafter, eighteen and one-half percent (18-1/2%) of the total 210 211 sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the 212 provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on 213 214 business activities within a county but outside any municipal 215 corporation, as defined in subsection (1) of this section, shall 216 be allocated for distribution and paid to the county in which the 217 business activity occurred. The amount paid to each county under 218 this subsection (15) shall be in addition to any other funds 219 allocated for distribution to the various counties under this 220 section.

221 (16) The remainder of the amounts collected under the 222 provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury

223 to the credit of the General Fund.

224 (17) It shall be the duty of the municipal officials of any 225 municipality which expands its limits, or of any community which 226 incorporates as a municipality, to notify the commissioner of such 227 action thirty (30) days before the effective date. Failure to so 228 notify the commissioner shall cause such municipality to forfeit the revenue which it would have been entitled to receive during 229 230 this period of time when the commissioner had no knowledge of the 231 If any funds have been erroneously disbursed to any action. 232 municipality or county or any overpayment of tax is recovered by 233 the taxpayer, the commissioner may make correction and adjust the 234 error or overpayment with such municipality or county by 235 withholding the necessary funds from any subsequent payment to be 236 made to the municipality or county.

[From and after July 1, 2002, this section reads as follows:]
237 [From and after July 1, 2002, this section reads as follows:]
238 27-65-75. On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the
239 revenue collected under the provisions of this chapter during the
240 preceding month shall be paid and distributed as follows:

(1) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month 241 242 thereafter through July 15, 1993, eighteen percent (18%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under 243 244 the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the 245 provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on 246 business activities within a municipal corporation shall be 247 allocated for distribution to such municipality and paid to such 248 municipal corporation. On or before August 15, 1993, and each 249 succeeding month thereafter, eighteen and one-half percent 250 (18-1/2%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the

preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on business activities within a municipal corporation shall be allocated for distribution to such municipality and paid to such municipal corporation.

A municipal corporation, for the purpose of distributing the tax under this subsection, shall mean and include all incorporated cities, towns and villages.

259 Monies allocated for distribution and credited to a municipal 260 corporation under this subsection may be pledged as security for 261 any loan received by the municipal corporation for the purpose of 262 capital improvements as authorized under Section 57-1-303, or 263 loans as authorized under Section 57-44-7, or water systems 264 improvements as authorized under Section 41-3-16.

In any county having a county seat which is not an incorporated municipality, the distribution provided hereunder shall be made as though the county seat was an incorporated municipality; however, the distribution to such municipality shall be paid to the county treasury wherein the municipality is located and such funds shall be used for road, bridge and street construction or maintenance therein.

(2) On or before September 15, 1987, and each succeeding
month thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter
during the preceding month One Million One Hundred Twenty-five
Thousand Dollars (\$1,125,000.00) shall be allocated for
distribution to municipal corporations as defined under subsection
(1) of this section in the proportion that the number of gallons
of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to consumers and

279 retailers in each such municipality during the preceding fiscal 280 year bears to the total gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold 281 by distributors to consumers and retailers in municipalities 282 statewide during the preceding fiscal year. The State Tax 283 Commission shall require all distributors of gasoline and diesel 284 fuel to report to the commission monthly the total number of gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by them to consumers and 285 286 retailers in each municipality during the preceding month. The 287 State Tax Commission shall have the authority to promulgate such 288 rules and regulations as is necessary to determine the number of 289 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold by distributors to 290 consumers and retailers in each municipality. In determining the 291 percentage allocation of funds under this subsection for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1987, and ending June 30, 1988, the 292 293 State Tax Commission may consider gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel sold for a period of less than one (1) fiscal year. For the 294 295 purposes of this subsection, the term "fiscal year" means the 296 fiscal year beginning July 1 of a year.

297 (3) On or before September 15, 1987, and on or before the 298 fifteenth day of each succeeding month, until the date specified 299 in Section 65-39-35, the proceeds derived from contractors' taxes 300 levied under Section 27-65-21 on contracts for the construction or 301 reconstruction of highways designated under the Four-Lane Highway Program created under Section 65-3-97 shall, except as otherwise 302 303 provided in Section 31-17-127, be deposited into the State 304 Treasury to the credit of the State Highway Fund to be used to 305 fund such Four-Lane Highway Program. The Mississippi Department 306 of Transportation shall provide to the State Tax Commission such

307 information as is necessary to determine the amount of proceeds to 308 be distributed under this subsection.

309 (4) On or before August 15, 1994, and on or before the 310 fifteenth day of each succeeding month through July 15, 1999, from 311 the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes as provided in Section 27-5-101(a)(ii)1, Four Million Dollars 312 313 (\$4,000,000.00) shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the 314 credit of a special fund designated as the "State Aid Road Fund," 315 created by Section 65-9-17. On or before August 15, 1999, and on 316 or before the fifteenth day of each succeeding month, from the 317 total amount of the proceeds of gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene 318 taxes apportioned by Section 27-5-101(a)(ii), Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00) or an amount equal to twenty-three and one-fourth 319 percent (23.25%) of such funds, whichever is the greater amount, 320 321 shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the 322 "State Aid Road Fund," created by Section 65-9-17. Such funds 323 shall be pledged to pay the principal of and interest on state aid 324 road bonds heretofore issued under Sections 19-9-51 through 325 19-9-77, in lieu of and in substitution for the funds heretofore 326 allocated to counties under this section. Such funds may not be pledged for the payment of any state aid road bonds issued after 327 328 April 1, 1981; however, this prohibition against the pledging of 329 any such funds for the payment of bonds shall not apply to any 330 bonds for which intent to issue such bonds has been published, for 331 the first time, as provided by law prior to March 29, 1981. From 332 the amount of taxes paid into the special fund pursuant to this 333 subsection and subsection (9) of this section, there shall be 334 first deducted and paid the amount necessary to pay the expenses

335 of the Office of State Aid Road Construction, as authorized by the 336 Legislature for all other general and special fund agencies. The 337 remainder of the fund shall be allocated monthly to the several 338 counties in accordance with the following formula:

339 (a) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to all counties 340 in equal shares;

(b) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to counties
based on the proportion that the total number of rural road miles
in a county bears to the total number of rural road miles in all
counties of the state; and

345 (c) One-third (1/3) shall be allocated to counties
346 based on the proportion that the rural population of the county
347 bears to the total rural population in all counties of the state,
348 according to the latest federal decennial census.

For the purposes of this subsection, the term "gasoline, diesel fuel or kerosene taxes" means such taxes as defined in paragraph (f) of Section 27-5-101.

352 The amount of funds allocated to any county under this subsection for any fiscal year after fiscal year 1994 shall not be 353 354 less than the amount allocated to such county for fiscal year 355 1994. Monies allocated to a county from the State Aid Road Fund 356 for fiscal year 1995 or any fiscal year thereafter that exceed the 357 amount of funds allocated to that county from the State Aid Road 358 Fund for fiscal year 1994, first must be expended by the county 359 for replacement or rehabilitation of bridges on the state aid road 360 system that have a sufficiency rating of less than twenty-five 361 (25), according to National Bridge Inspection standards before 362 such monies may be approved for expenditure by the State Aid Road

363 Engineer on other projects that qualify for the use of state aid 364 road funds.

Any reference in the general laws of this state or the Mississippi Code of 1972 to Section 27-5-105 shall mean and be construed to refer and apply to subsection (4) of Section 27-65-75.

369 (5) One Million Six Hundred Sixty-six Thousand Six Hundred 370 Sixty-six Dollars (\$1,666,666.00) each month shall be paid into 371 the special fund known as the "State Public School Building Fund" 372 created and existing under the provisions of Sections 37-47-1 373 through 37-47-67. Such payments into said fund are to be made on 374 the last day of each succeeding month hereafter.

(6) An amount each month beginning August 15, 1983, through
November 15, 1986, as specified in Section 6 of Chapter 542, Laws
of 1983, shall be paid into the special fund known as the
Correctional Facilities Construction Fund created in Section 6 of
Chapter 542, Laws of 1983.

(7) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month 380 381 thereafter, two and two hundred sixty-six one-thousandths percent 382 (2.266%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the 383 preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that 384 collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2), not to 385 exceed the fiscal year 1997 appropriated level shall be deposited 386 by the commission into the School Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund created pursuant to Section 37-61-35, with the balance to be 387 388 transferred to the Education Enhancement Fund created under 389 Section 37-61-33 for appropriation by the Legislature as other 390 education needs and not subject to the percentage set asides set

391 forth in Section 37-61-33.

(8) On or before August 15, 1992, and each succeeding month thereafter, nine and seventy-three one-thousandths percent (9.073%) of the total sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall be deposited into the Education Enhancement Fund created pursuant to Section 37-61-33.

(9) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month
thereafter, from the revenue collected under this chapter during
the preceding month, Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
(\$250,000.00) shall be paid into the State Aid Road Fund.

(10) On or before August 15, 1994, and each succeeding month thereafter through August 15, 1995, from the revenue collected under this chapter during the preceding month, Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105.

408 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to 409 the contrary, on or before February 15, 1995, and each succeeding 410 month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the 411 preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(2) shall 412 be deposited, without diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem 413 Tax Reduction Fund established in Section 27-51-105.

(12) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, on or before August 15, 1995, and each succeeding month thereafter, the sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the provisions of Section 27-65-17(1) on retail sales of private carriers of passengers and light carriers

419 of property, as defined in Section 27-51-101, shall be deposited, 420 after diversion, into the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax Reduction 421 Fund established in Section 27-51-105.

(13) On or before July 15, 1994, and on or before the 422 423 fifteenth day of each succeeding month thereafter, that portion of 424 the avails of the tax imposed in Section 27-65-22, which is 425 derived from activities held on the Mississippi state fairgrounds complex, shall be paid into a special fund hereby created in the 426 427 State Treasury and shall be expended pursuant to legislative appropriations solely to defray the costs of repairs and 428 429 renovation at such Trade Mart and Coliseum.

(14) On or before August 15, 1998, and each succeeding month thereafter through July 15, 2005, that portion of the avails of the tax imposed in Section 27-65-23 which is derived from sales by cotton compresses or cotton warehouses and which would otherwise be paid into the General Fund, shall be deposited in an amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) into the special fund created pursuant to Section 69-37-39.

(15) On or before August 15, 2000, and each succeeding month 437 438 thereafter, eighteen and one-half percent (18-1/2%) of the total 439 sales tax revenue collected during the preceding month under the 440 provisions of this chapter, except that collected under the 441 provisions of Sections 27-65-15, 27-65-19(3) and 27-65-21, on 442 business activities within a county but outside any municipal 443 corporation, as defined in subsection (1) of this section, shall 444 be allocated for distribution and paid to the county in which the 445 business activity occurred. The amount paid to each county under 446 this subsection (15) shall be in addition to any other funds

447 <u>allocated for distribution to the various counties under this</u> 448 <u>section.</u>

449 (16) The remainder of the amounts collected under the 450 provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the State Treasury 451 to the credit of the General Fund.

452 (17) It shall be the duty of the municipal officials of any 453 municipality which expands its limits, or of any community which 454 incorporates as a municipality, to notify the commissioner of such 455 action thirty (30) days before the effective date. Failure to so 456 notify the commissioner shall cause such municipality to forfeit 457 the revenue which it would have been entitled to receive during 458 this period of time when the commissioner had no knowledge of the 459 action. If any funds have been erroneously disbursed to any 460 municipality or county or any overpayment of tax is recovered by 461 the taxpayer, the commissioner may make correction and adjust the 462 error or overpayment with such municipality or county by 463 withholding the necessary funds from any subsequent payment to be 464 made to the municipality or county.

465 SECTION 2. Section 27-65-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 466 amended as follows:

467 27-65-53. If the commissioner finds that the taxpayer has 468 overpaid his tax for any reason and the taxpayer has discontinued 469 business and there is no subsequent liability upon which the 470 excess may be credited, or if the amount of the excess so paid 471 shall exceed the estimated liability for the next twelve (12) 472 months, the excess shall be refunded to the taxpayer. Such amount 473 shall be certified to the State Auditor of Public Accounts by the 474 commission. The \* \* \* Auditor may make such investigation and

475 audit of the claim as he finds necessary. If he finds that the 476 commissioner is correct in his determination, the auditor may 477 issue his warrant to the State Treasurer in favor of the taxpayer 478 for the amount of tax erroneously paid into the State Treasury, 479 such refunds to be made from current sales tax collections. If 480 part of the overpayment has been disbursed to any municipality or 481 county, under authority of Section 27-65-75, the municipality or 482 county, having erroneously received the money, shall adjust the 483 amount with the commissioner, or the overpayment may be withheld 484 by the state from any funds due by the state to the municipality 485 or county.

486 \* \* \* Where the taxpayer has overpaid his tax, the 487 commissioner may give credit for same and allow the taxpayer to 488 take credit on a subsequent return or, if necessary, in his 489 discretion, have the taxpayer file for a refund as provided 490 herein.

491 If any overpayment of tax as reflected in an application or 492 amended return, or both, filed by the taxpayer, and verified by 493 the commissioner or otherwise determined to be due by the 494 commissioner or commission, is not refunded or credited to a 495 taxpayer's account within ninety (90) days after the application 496 or amended return is filed or the date the commission or 497 commissioner determines a refund is due, whichever is later, 498 interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month shall be 499 allowed on such overpayment computed for the period after 500 expiration of the ninety-day period provided herein to the date of 501 payment.

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SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from

503 and after July 1, 2000.