

By: Ellington

To: Conservation and  
Water Resources; Ways  
and Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1468

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-7-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE ENTITIES SEEKING TO ENTER INTO ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
3 PERFORMANCE SERVICES OR SHARED SAVINGS CONTRACTS TO PUBLICLY  
4 REQUEST PROPOSALS OR QUALIFICATIONS AND TO SELECT THE MOST  
5 QUALIFIED PROPOSAL, PERSON OR FIRM; TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF  
6 ENERGY TO ASSESS AND COLLECT A FEE TO DEFRAY THE COST OF CERTAIN  
7 SERVICES; TO REVISE DEFINITIONS AND MAKE TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING  
8 AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 57-39-203, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
9 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
10 TO CHARGE A LOW-INTEREST RATE ON LOANS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR  
11 SCHOOL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND TO REVISE THE MAXIMUM TERM  
12 FOR THOSE LOANS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. Section 31-7-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 amended as follows:[LH1]

16 31-7-14. (1) (a) For purposes of this section, the  
17 following words and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed  
18 herein, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

19 (i) "Division" means the Energy Division of the  
20 Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development.

21 (ii) "Energy efficiency equipment, services  
22 relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of  
23 equipment and improvements reasonably required to existing  
24 equipment and existing improvements" mean heating, ventilation and  
25 air conditioning systems, lighting, windows, insulation and energy  
26 management controls and other equipment, services and improvements  
27 providing energy efficiency as determined by the division.

28 (iii) "Energy performance contract" means an  
29 agreement to provide energy services which include, but are not  
30 limited to, the design, installation, financing and maintenance or  
31 management of the energy systems or equipment in order to improve

32 its energy efficiency. The energy savings are guaranteed by the  
33 performance contractor and can be used to repay the cost of the  
34 project.

35 (iv) "Energy services contract" means an agreement  
36 to provide energy services which include, but are not limited to,  
37 the design, installation, financing and maintenance or management  
38 of the energy systems or equipment in order to improve its energy  
39 efficiency. Payments for the contract are not contingent upon the  
40 actual savings realized from the equipment.

41 (v) "Entity" means the board of trustees of any  
42 public school district, junior college, institution of higher  
43 learning, publicly owned hospital, state agency or governing  
44 authority.

45 (vi) "Shared savings contract" means an agreement  
46 where the contractor and the entity each receive a pre-agreed  
47 percentage or dollar value of the energy cost savings over the  
48 life of the contract.

49 (b) An entity may enter into a lease, energy services  
50 contract or lease-purchase contracts for energy efficiency  
51 equipment, services relating to the installation, operation and  
52 maintenance of equipment or improvements reasonably required to  
53 existing equipment and existing improvements and shall contract in  
54 accordance with the following provisions:

55 (i) An entity shall publicly issue requests for  
56 proposals, advertised in the same manner as provided in Section  
57 31-7-13 for seeking competitive sealed bids, concerning the  
58 provision of energy efficiency services relating to the  
59 installation, operation and maintenance of equipment, improvements  
60 reasonably required to existing equipment and existing  
61 improvements or the design, installation, ownership, operation and  
62 maintenance of energy efficiency equipment. Those requests for  
63 proposals shall contain terms and conditions relating to  
64 submission of proposals, evaluation and selection of proposals,  
65 financial terms, legal responsibilities, and any other matters as  
66 the entity determines to be appropriate for inclusion.

67 (ii) Upon receiving responses to the request for  
68 proposals, the entity may select the most qualified proposal or

69 proposals on the basis of experience and qualifications of the  
70 proposers, the technical approach, the financial arrangements, the  
71 overall benefits to the entity and any other relevant factors  
72 determined to be appropriate.

73 (iii) An entity shall negotiate and enter into  
74 contracts with the person, persons, firm or firms submitting the  
75 proposal selected as the most qualified under this section.

76 (iv) All contracts must contain the following  
77 annual allocation dependency clause: The continuation of this  
78 contract is contingent upon the appropriation of funds to fulfill  
79 the requirements of the contract by the Legislature or other  
80 budgeting authority. If the Legislature or other budgeting  
81 authority fails to appropriate sufficient monies to provide for  
82 the continuation of the contract, the contract shall terminate on  
83 the last day of the fiscal year for which appropriations were  
84 made. The termination shall be without penalty or expense to the  
85 entity of any kind whatsoever, except as to the portions of  
86 payments for which funds were appropriated.

87 (v) The annual rate of interest paid under any  
88 lease-purchase agreement authorized by this section shall not  
89 exceed the maximum interest rate to maturity on general obligation  
90 indebtedness permitted under Section 75-17-101.

91 (vi) The maximum lease-purchase term for any  
92 equipment acquired under this section shall not exceed the useful  
93 life of that equipment as determined according to the upper limit  
94 of the asset depreciation range (ADR) guidelines for the Class  
95 Life Asset Depreciation Range System established by the Internal  
96 Revenue Service under the United States Internal Revenue Code and  
97 the regulations thereunder as in effect on December 31, 1980, or  
98 comparable depreciation guidelines with respect to any equipment  
99 not covered by ADR guidelines.

100 (vii) This subsection shall, with respect to the  
101 procurement of energy efficiency services and/or equipment,

102 supersede any contradictory or conflicting provisions of Chapter  
103 7, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972, and other laws with respect  
104 to awarding public contracts.

105 (c) The division may assess and collect a fee for  
106 services rendered under this subsection. The rate of the fee  
107 shall be determined by rule of the Department of Economic and  
108 Community Development. The total fee charged to any entity shall  
109 not exceed the reasonable costs of services provided under this  
110 subsection. The proceeds of the fee shall be used only to defray  
111 the costs of providing service under this subsection.

112 (2) (a) The division \* \* \* may contract with a party  
113 selected under \* \* \* this subsection to provide financing to  
114 entities and private "nonprofit" hospitals, \* \* \* to purchase  
115 energy efficiency equipment, services relating to the  
116 installation, operation and maintenance of equipment or  
117 improvements reasonably required to existing equipment and  
118 existing improvements or an energy saving performance contract,  
119 energy services contract, or lease-purchase basis. Any energy  
120 efficiency lease financing contract entered into by the division  
121 before May 15, 1992, shall be valid and binding when the contract  
122 was entered into under this subsection.

123 (b) The entities and private "nonprofit" hospitals that  
124 decide to contract for energy efficiency equipment, services  
125 relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of  
126 equipment or improvements reasonably required to existing  
127 equipment and existing improvements on a lease, energy services  
128 contract or lease-purchase basis, may request financial assistance  
129 from the division.

130 (c) The provisions of any energy efficiency  
131 lease-purchase agreements authorized under this subsection shall  
132 comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (1)(b)(iv) and (v)  
133 of this section. The term of any energy services performance  
134 contract, energy services contract, lease or lease-purchase

135 agreement for energy efficiency services and/or equipment entered  
136 into under this section shall not exceed fifteen (15) years.

137 (d) Any entity or private nonprofit hospital having  
138 approval of the division may borrow money in anticipation of  
139 entering into a lease-purchase agreement pursuant to subsection  
140 (2)(b) of this section. Any borrowing may be upon terms and  
141 conditions as may be agreed upon by the borrowing entity and the  
142 party advancing interim funds; however, the principal on any \* \* \*  
143 borrowing shall be repaid within a period of time not to exceed  
144 one hundred eighty (180) days. In borrowing money under \* \* \*  
145 this subparagraph, it is not necessary to publish notice of  
146 intention to do so or to secure the consent of the qualified  
147 electors, either by election or otherwise. Any borrowing may be  
148 negotiated between the parties and is not required to be publicly  
149 bid, may be evidenced by negotiable notes or lease and shall not  
150 be considered when computing any limitation of indebtedness of the  
151 borrowing entity established by law. The principal, interest and  
152 costs of incurring any borrowing shall not exceed the principal  
153 amount of the final contract or agreement approved by the  
154 division, and accepted by the borrowing entity, under subsection  
155 (2)(b) of this section.

156 (e) This subsection shall, with respect to the  
157 procurement of energy efficiency services and/or equipment,  
158 supersede the provisions of any contradictory or conflicting  
159 provisions of Chapter 7, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972, and  
160 other laws with respect to awarding public contracts.

161 (3) All lease-purchase agreements authorized by this section  
162 and the income from those agreements shall be exempt from all  
163 taxation within the State of Mississippi, except gift, transfer  
164 and inheritance taxes.

165 (4) (a) \* \* \* An entity may contract for energy efficiency,  
166 equipment, services relating to the installation, operation or  
167 maintenance of equipment or improvements reasonably required to

168 existing equipment and existing improvements on a shared savings  
169 basis or performance basis \* \* \*.

170 (b) If an entity decides to enter into a contract for  
171 energy efficiency equipment, services relating to the  
172 installation, operation or maintenance of equipment or  
173 improvements reasonably required to existing equipment and  
174 existing improvements on a shared savings basis or performance  
175 basis, the entity shall issue a request for proposals or a request  
176 for qualifications, as determined necessary by the division, in  
177 the same manner as prescribed under subsection (1)(b) of this  
178 section. The entity shall notify the division in writing. The  
179 final contract shall be approved by the division.

180 (c) The terms of any shared savings or performance  
181 contract for efficiency services and/or equipment entered into  
182 under this section may not exceed fifteen (15) years.

183 (d) The terms of any shared savings or performance  
184 contract entered into under this section must contain a guarantee  
185 of savings clause from the company providing energy efficiency,  
186 equipment, services relating to the installation, operation and  
187 maintenance of equipment or improvements reasonably required to  
188 existing equipment and existing improvements.

189 \* \* \*

190 (5) By September 1 of each year, each entity that receives  
191 financial assistance through the energy efficiency lease program  
192 shall annually report to the division its energy usage by meter in  
193 dollars and consumption by fuel type for the previous fiscal year.

194 SECTION 2. Section 57-39-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
195 amended as follows:

196 57-39-203. The Executive Director of the Department of  
197 Economic and Community Development may enter into agreements with  
198 school boards for implementation of Sections 57-39-201 through  
199 57-39-205. The interest rate on any loan provided to a school  
200 district shall not exceed two percent (2%) below the prime

201 interest rate as determined by the United States Federal Reserve  
202 Board. School districts may borrow funds from the Department of  
203 Economic and Community Development for a term not to exceed ten  
204 (10) years and shall establish a bond sinking fund to which  
205 installment payments shall be made on a monthly basis in equal  
206 amounts from the local operation and maintenance fund. From this  
207 bond sinking fund, repayment shall be made to the Department of  
208 Economic and Community Development annually in equal amounts. In  
209 borrowing money under \* \* \* this section it shall not be necessary  
210 to publish notice of intention to do so or to secure the consent  
211 of the qualified electorate of the school district, either by  
212 election or otherwise. Any borrowing shall be authorized by order  
213 or resolution of the school board.

214 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
215 and after July 1, 2000.