

By: Stogner

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 3015
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
2 COMMERCE TO CERTIFY THE IDENTITY, PURITY AND OTHER RELEVANT
3 FACTORS OF CATFISH STRAINS RELEASED OR MARKETED IN MISSISSIPPI; TO
4 PLACE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF SUCH CATFISH; TO REQUIRE
5 CATFISH TO BE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S REGULATION
6 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Agriculture and Commerce
9 is vested with the full authority to establish and specify rules
10 and regulations for the type, identity, purity and other related
11 factors to catfish strains to be released or marketed in the
12 state.

13 (2) The Department of Agriculture and Commerce shall not
14 have the power to engage in the sale of certified catfish or to
15 designate any agency or individual to sell certified catfish
16 except that the department may promote the sale of certified
17 catfish in general through advertising.

18 (3) The department may assess reasonable fees for certifying
19 catfish under this act.

20 SECTION 2. (1) Every person who issues, uses any
21 advertisement or makes any written or printed representation of
22 description of catfish intended for propagation, release, or sale
23 and uses terms "certified," "state certified" or "Mississippi
24 certified" or any similar words or phrase which expressly or
25 impliedly state or represent such catfish, or catfish seed stock
26 comply with or conform to the certification standards or
27 requirements as required by the Department of Agriculture and
28 Commerce shall comply with this act and the regulations of the

29 department.

30 (2) No catfish shall be eligible for certification under
31 this act except by full compliance to the standards, requirements
32 and regulations of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce for
33 certification.

34 (3) Any person who violates this act or any regulation of
35 the Department of Agriculture and Commerce is guilty of a
36 misdemeanor and subject to penalties under Section 69-7-613.

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