To: Agriculture

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2001

By: Representatives Frierson, Moore (60th), Fillingane

HOUSE BILL NO. 374

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 75-33-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE SHALL PAY THE FULL COSTS FOR INSPECTION SERVICES OF RABBIT PROCESSING PLANTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 75-33-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

75-33-33. Any person desiring inspection service over and above the inspection service normally provided by the commissioner for sanitary purposes, and any person desiring a grading service as authorized by this article, shall pay the commissioner for such services. The person requesting such services shall pay the commissioner a sum sufficient to cover the salary or wages of the inspector, or the grader, plus necessary travel and other authorized expenses, and a reasonable sum for administration expenses. All expenses to be paid hereunder shall be that sum agreed upon with the commissioner.

The commissioner is hereby authorized and empowered to recognize and accept any bona fide agreements and arrangements now in existence, or that may hereafter be made, between any person carrying on any business covered by this article and the proper officials of any county and/or municipality wherein local inspection service is to be provided by the county or the municipality as a condition or covenant to the establishing or operating of such business. The commissioner may, in his discretion, enter into an agreement with the appropriate agency of the United States Department of Agriculture to receive financial assistance therefrom in helping carry out the purpose of this
article, and to pay a reasonable state-matching contribution as
may be required.

The commissioner shall inspect for wholesomeness all plants
in operation which are not under federal inspection. Except as
otherwise provided herein, the state shall pay the full costs for
such inspection after September 1, 1968. After July 1, 2001, the
state shall pay the full costs for such inspection services of
rabbit processing plants. Provided that so long as funds are
available which have been appropriated by the Legislature for
product inspection, the commissioner may employ and train
inspection personnel and assign such personnel to plants for
inspection for wholesomeness. No state funds shall be used for
payment of overtime or for grading. Except as otherwise provided
herein for inspection services of rabbits, plant management shall
reimburse the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
for inspection services of quail, * * * ratites and other exotic
animals that are not regulated by mandate under the Federal Meat
Inspection Act or the Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act.
Plants requesting such services must make application for
voluntary inspection services and obtain an establishment "V"
number.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2001.