

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

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 374

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

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

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

7 75-33-33. Any person desiring inspection service over and  
8 above the inspection service normally provided by the commissioner  
9 for sanitary purposes, and any person desiring a grading service  
10 as authorized by this article, shall pay the commissioner for such  
11 services. The person requesting such services shall pay the  
12 commissioner a sum sufficient to cover the salary or wages of the  
13 inspector, or the grader, plus necessary travel and other  
14 authorized expenses, and a reasonable sum for administration  
15 expenses. All expenses to be paid hereunder shall be that sum  
16 agreed upon with the commissioner.

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



28 article, and to pay a reasonable state-matching contribution as  
29 may be required.

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

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

