

By: Representative Rushing

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 760

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ANY PERSON WHO WILLFULLY AND KNOWINGLY
2 DAMAGES OR DESTROYS CERTAIN FIELD-CROP PRODUCTS SHALL BE LIABLE
3 FOR TWICE THE VALUE OF THE CROP DAMAGED OR DESTROYED; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) Any person or entity who willfully and
7 knowingly damages or destroys any field-crop product that is grown
8 for personal or commercial purposes, or for testing or research
9 purposes in the context of a product-development program in
10 conjunction or coordination with a private research facility or a
11 university or any federal, state or local government agency, shall
12 be liable for twice the value of the crop damaged or destroyed.

13 (2) In awarding damages under this section, the courts shall
14 consider the market value of the crop before the damage or
15 destruction and production, research, testing, replacement and
16 crop-development costs directly related to the crop that has been
17 damaged or destroyed as part of the value of the crop.

18 (3) Damages available under this section shall be limited to
19 twice the market value of the crop before the damage or
20 destruction plus twice the actual damages involving production,
21 research, testing, replacement and crop-development costs directly
22 related to the crop that has been damaged or destroyed.

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

