SENATE BILL NO. 2529

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-5-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM STATE PORT PURCHASING LIMITATIONS TO STATE PURCHASING LAWS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 59-5-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

59-5-37. The board or State Port Authority, in the performance of its duties, may employ such personnel and make all contracts and purchases incidental to or necessary for the advancement, promotion, development, establishment, insurance, maintenance, repair, improvement and operation of any ports, harbors, rivers, channels and waterways including, if required for its protection, retirement benefits, workers' compensation insurance and other employee benefits for the benefit of any employees of the board or State Port Authority. The board or State Port Authority may establish a trade development and promotion account to pay all direct and necessary expenses for the promotion and development of the state port. The authority is granted the power to sue and be sued in its own name.

The board or State Port Authority may, in its discretion, make such contracts or purchases according to the state purchasing laws. Contracts let for any port, harbor, river, channel or waterway improvements shall be advertised as required by law for the letting of public contracts, and such contracts shall be awarded to the lowest and best bidder who shall make bond as shall be required by the board or State Port Authority conditioned for the faithful prosecution and completion of work.
according to such contracts, such bond to be furnished by a 
corporate surety company qualified to do business in this state. 
Except, however, that the board may negotiate and enter into 
contracts with responsible lessees for the construction of 
facilities by lessees, such as those referred to in Section 
59-5-11, and the acquisition thereof by the board upon such terms 
and conditions and for such amount as may be approved by the 
board.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from 
and after its passage.