

By: Senator(s) Stogner

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2673

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO TRANSFER SUPERVISION, MANAGEMENT, AND CONTROL OF THE VETERINARY  
3 DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TO THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT  
4 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 69-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 69-15-11. (1) (a) There is created the Veterinary  
9 Diagnostic Laboratory Board which shall, in conjunction with the  
10 College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University,  
11 maintain a complete and adequate veterinary diagnostic laboratory  
12 at Jackson capable of rendering quick and accurate diagnoses of  
13 disease conditions of animals and livestock and aquaculture,  
14 including but not limited to cattle, horses, sheep, swine, poultry  
15 and pets. The laboratory shall not conduct any regulatory testing  
16 for food purposes.

17 (b) The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board is to be  
18 composed of the Chairman of the Board of Animal Health; the  
19 Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; the Dean of the College  
20 of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University of  
21 Agriculture and Applied Science; a person appointed by the  
22 President of Alcorn State University from its land grant staff who  
23 is not a member of the Board of Animal Health; a licensed and  
24 practicing veterinarian appointed by the President of the  
25 Mississippi State Veterinary Medical Association who is not a  
26 member of the Board of Animal Health; the State Veterinarian and  
27 the State Chemist. The Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine

28 at Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science  
29 shall serve as chairman of the board.

30 (c) The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board shall  
31 meet every other month, and the chairman may call special meetings  
32 of the board as he deems necessary. The members of the Veterinary  
33 Diagnostic Laboratory Board who are not full-time public officers  
34 or public employees shall be entitled to a per diem as provided in  
35 Section 25-3-69. All members of the board are entitled to mileage  
36 and actual and necessary expenses in attending such regular or  
37 special meetings of the board as provided in Section 25-3-41.

38 (d) There is created an advisory council to advise the  
39 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board on matters concerning the  
40 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The council shall be composed  
41 of the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the Chairman  
42 of the House Agriculture Committee, and one (1) appointee of the  
43 Lieutenant Governor and one (1) appointee of the Speaker of the  
44 House of Representatives. The members of the advisory council  
45 shall serve in an advisory capacity only. For attending meetings  
46 of the council, such legislators shall receive per diem and  
47 expenses which shall be paid from the contingent expense funds of  
48 their respective houses in the same amounts provided for committee  
49 meetings when the Legislature is not in session; however, no per  
50 diem or expenses for attending meetings of the council shall be  
51 paid while the Legislature is in session. No per diem and  
52 expenses shall be paid except for attending meetings of the  
53 council without prior approval of the proper committee in their  
54 respective houses.

55 (e) The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board shall  
56 select from a written list of three (3) recommendations submitted  
57 by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi  
58 State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, an executive  
59 director of the laboratory, \* \* \* who holds a degree of veterinary  
60 medicine from a recognized college or university; is board

61 certified in one (1) of the following basic diagnostic  
62 disciplines: toxicology, pathology, microbiology, virology or  
63 clinical pathology; and has engaged in the practice of veterinary  
64 clinical diagnosis for at least ten (10) years, five (5) years of  
65 which were in a supervisory capacity. The executive director  
66 shall select and employ such veterinarians, bacteriologists,  
67 pathologists, technicians, clerical assistants, and other  
68 personnel necessary to carry out the objective of this section.  
69 The salaries, compensation and expenses of such employees \* \* \*  
70 shall be sufficient to insure the employment of competent persons  
71 and shall be paid from funds at the disposal of the Veterinary  
72 Diagnostic Laboratory \* \* \*. The executive director shall be  
73 responsible for the daily operations of the laboratory. The  
74 College of Veterinary Medicine shall provide such office and  
75 technical equipment, and other items of personal property  
76 necessary and proper to effect the full meaning of this section.

77 (f) All funds, property and other assets of the Board  
78 of Animal Health's diagnostic laboratory shall be transferred to  
79 the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board on July 1, 1998. All  
80 current positions of the Board of Animal Health's diagnostic  
81 laboratory shall be transferred to the Veterinary Diagnostic  
82 Laboratory Board on July 1, 1998. Such transfer shall be based on  
83 consultation with the Legislative Budget Office staff and on  
84 estimated fiscal year 1998 budget expenditures as contained in the  
85 fiscal year 1999 budget request of the Board of Animal Health.  
86 Before establishment and allotment of such resources for fiscal  
87 year 1999, copies of the proposed division of resources shall be  
88 provided for review to the advisory council for the Veterinary  
89 Diagnostic Laboratory Board, the Legislative Budget Office and the  
90 Joint Legislative Committee on Performance, Evaluation and  
91 Expenditure Review. It is the intent of the Legislature that  
92 funds shall be transferred to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

93 Board that are sufficient to carry out the purposes of House Bill  
94 No. 1584, 1998 Regular Session [Laws, 1998, Chapter 570].

95 (g) The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Board may  
96 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of  
97 House Bill No. 1584, 1998 Regular Session [Laws, 1998, Chapter  
98 570].

99 (h) All funds, property and other assets and all  
100 current positions of the diagnostic laboratory shall be  
101 transferred to the College of Veterinary Medicine on July 1, 2001.  
102 The budget of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory shall be funded  
103 as a separate line item within the general appropriation bill for  
104 the College of Veterinary Medicine.

105 (2) The College of Veterinary Medicine shall maintain a  
106 complete and adequate veterinary diagnostic laboratory at Jackson  
107 and any person licensed to practice veterinary medicine,  
108 veterinary surgery, veterinary dentistry, or any  
109 vocational-agriculture teacher, bona fide farmer or county agent  
110 in the State of Mississippi or agent of the State Veterinarian  
111 shall have made available to him services of the laboratory. The  
112 laboratory shall examine blood and urinal specimens, and shall  
113 conduct blood tests and bacterial tests, and make reports thereon,  
114 of all specimens, submitted by any licensed veterinarian, or  
115 vocational-agriculture teacher, bona fide farmer, or county agent  
116 of this state or agent of the State Veterinarian. The Veterinary  
117 Diagnostic Laboratory Board shall be required to set reasonable  
118 fees for such examinations, tests, reports or other diagnostic  
119 services in such amounts as will pay for the expenses of providing  
120 same. The executive director may contract and enter into  
121 agreements for services with the College of Veterinary Medicine at  
122 Mississippi State University as necessary to carry out the duties  
123 of the laboratory.

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