

By: Senator(s) Stogner

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2730
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-37-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE REFERENDUM ON THE BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION PROGRAM TO
3 TEN YEARS; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN REPORTS; TO LIMIT THE ASSESSMENT
4 FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 69-37-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 69-37-21. (1) In the event any referendum conducted under
9 this chapter fails to receive the required number of affirmative
10 votes, the bureau, with the consent of the Certified Cotton
11 Growers Organization, may be authorized to call other referenda.

12 (2) After the passage of any referendum, the eligible voters
13 shall be allowed, by subsequent referenda to be held at least
14 every ten (10) years or upon recommendation of the certified
15 growers committee, to vote on whether to continue with the program
16 and/or to modify the assessment fee. Upon petition by twenty
17 percent (20%) of the voting cotton growers within a designated
18 region, the Certified Cotton Growers Organization shall be
19 required to conduct a subsequent referendum on the question called
20 in the petition, provided that the Certified Cotton Growers
21 Organization is required to hold no more than one (1) petitioned
22 referendum for each designated management region during any given
23 calendar year. All the requirements for an initial referendum
24 must be met in any subsequent referenda. The results of each
25 referendum, along with annual audits of all monies expended on
26 programs affected by the referendum, shall be reported each year
27 to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of

28 Representatives and the Chairmen of the Senate Agriculture
29 Committee and the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

30 (3) It is the intent of the Legislature that the cost of the
31 containment/maintenance phase of the boll weevil eradication
32 program be borne by the producers, and that any subsequent debt
33 incurred by the program be funded by subsidies, loans and grants
34 from the federal government and other sources.

35 (4) No assessment under any subsequent referendum for a
36 containment/maintenance program may exceed Twelve Dollars (\$12.00)
37 an acre, and it shall be incumbent upon the Boll Weevil Management
38 Corporation to levy only that amount necessary to ensure the
39 financial stability of the eradication program.

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