SENATE BILL NO. 3004

AN ACT TO RESTRICT THE CONDITIONS FOR SALE OF CERTAIN NEW AND
UNUSED PROPERTY; TO ENACT DEFINITIONS; TO REQUIRE DOCUMENTATION
AND RECORD KEEPING; TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES; TO ENACT EXCEPTIONS;
AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) (a) "Unused property market" shall mean any
event:

(i) At which two (2) or more persons offer
personal property for sale or exchange, at which a fee is charged
for sale or exchange of personal property, or at which a fee is
charged to prospective buyers for admission to the area at which
personal property is offered or displayed for sale or exchange; or

(ii) Regardless of the number of persons offering
or displaying personal property or the absence of fees at which
personal property is offered or displayed for sale or exchange if
the event is held more than six (6) times in any twelve-month
period.

(b) The term unused property market is interchangeable
with and applicable to "swap meet," "flea market" or other similar
terms regardless of whether these events are held inside a
building or outside in the open. The primary characteristic is
that these activities involve a series of sales sufficient in
number, scope and character to constitute a regular course of
business.

(c) The term "unused property market" shall not mean
and shall not apply to:
(i) An event which is organized for the exclusive benefit of any community chest, fund, foundation, association, or corporation organized and operated for religious educational or charitable purposes, provided that no part of any admission fee or parking fee charged vendors or prospective purchasers or the gross receipts or net earnings from the sale or exchange of personal property, whether in the form of a percentage of the receipts or earnings, as salary, or otherwise, inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or person participating in the organization or conduct of the event; or

(ii) Any event at which all of the personal property offered for sale or displayed is new, and all persons selling, exchanging or offering or displaying personal property for sale or exchange, are manufacturers or authorized representatives of manufacturers or distributors.

(2) The term "unused property merchant" shall mean any person, other than a vendor or merchant with an established retail store in the county, who transports an inventory of goods to a building, vacant lot or other unused property market location and who, at that location, displays the goods for sale and sells the goods at retail or offers the goods for sale at retail, except a person who offers five or less items of the same new and unused merchandise for sale or exchange at an unused property market.

(3) The term "new and unused property" shall mean tangible personal property that was acquired by the unused property merchant directly from the producer, manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer in the ordinary course of business which has never been used since its production or manufacturing or which is in its original and unopened package or container, if such personal property was so packaged when originally produced or manufactured. New and unused property does not include property the sale of which is already considered "used" under existing federal or state law or regulation.
(4) The term "baby food" or "infant formula" shall mean any food manufactured, packaged and labeled specifically for sale for consumption by a child under the age of two (2).

(5) The term "nonprescription drug" (may also be referred to as "over the counter drug") shall mean any nonnarcotic medicine or drug that may be sold without a prescription and is prepackaged for use by the consumer, prepared by the manufacturer or producer for use by the consumer, and should be properly labeled and unadulterated in accordance with the requirements of the state food and drug laws and the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The term "nonprescription drug" shall not include herbal products, dietary supplements, botanical extracts or vitamins.

(6) The term "medical device" shall mean any instrument apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, tool or other similar or related article, including any component part or accessory, required under federal law to bear the label "Caution: Federal law requires dispensing by or on the order of a physician," or which is defined by federal law as a medical device and which is intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions or in the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in man or animals or is intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or animals, which does not achieve any of its principal intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of man or animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for achievement of any of its principal intended purposes.

SECTION 2. (1) No unused property merchant shall offer at an unused property market for sale or knowingly permit the sale of baby food, infant formula, cosmetics or personal care products, or any nonprescription drug or medical device. This section shall not apply to a person who keeps available for public inspection a written authorization identifying that person as an authorized representative of the manufacturer or distributor of such product,
as long as the authorization is not false, fraudulent, or fraudulently obtained.

(2) Every unused property merchant shall maintain receipts for the purchase of new and unused property, as defined above. Receipts shall contain all of the following information:

(a) Date of the transaction;
(b) Name and address of the person, corporation, or entity from whom the new and unused property was acquired;
(c) An identification and description of the new and unused property acquired;
(d) The price paid for such new and unused property;

(3) It is a violation of this act for an unused property merchant required to maintain receipts under the provisions contained herein to knowingly:

(a) Falsify, obliterate or destroy such receipts;
(b) Refuse or fail upon request to make such receipts available for inspection within a period of time which is reasonable under the individual circumstances surrounding such request; provided, however, nothing contained within the provisions of this paragraph (b) shall be construed to require the unused property merchant to possess such receipt on or about his or her person without reasonable notice; or
(c) Fail to maintain the receipts required by this section for an appropriate time.

(4) The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

(a) The sale of any item regulated by federal, state or local law, sold in compliance with those provisions.
(b) The sale of a motor vehicle or trailer that is required to be registered or is subject to the certificate of title laws of this state;
(c) The sale of wood for fuel, ice or livestock;
(d) Business conducted in any industry or association trade show;
(e) Property, although never used, whose style, packaging or material clearly indicates that such property was not produced or manufactured within recent times;

(f) Anyone who sells by sample, catalog or brochure for future delivery;

(g) The sale of arts or crafts or other merchandise by a person who produces such arts or crafts or merchandise or by a person or persons acting on their behalf;

(h) Persons who make sales presentations pursuant to a prior, individualized invitation issued to the consumer by the owner or legal occupant of the premises.

(5) Violations of this act shall be punished as follows:

(a) Conviction of a first offense under this section shall be a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) and imprisonment not to exceed three (3) months.

(b) Conviction of a second offense under this section shall be a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00) and imprisonment not to exceed one (1) year.

(c) Conviction of a third offense under this section shall be a felony and punished by a fine not to exceed Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) and imprisonment in the penitentiary not to exceed five (5) years.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.