

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Ports and Marine
Resources; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 3012

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, IN
2 CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT, TO CONDUCT A STUDY
3 REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PURCHASE BY THE STATE OF THE
4 EXISTING RAIL LINE EXTENDING FROM THE STATE PORT AT GULFPORT TO
5 THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) The Mississippi Development Authority, in
8 conjunction with the State Port at Gulfport, shall conduct a study
9 regarding the feasibility of the purchase by the state of the
10 existing rail line extending from the State Port at Gulfport to
11 the City of Hattiesburg. The study shall examine all aspects of
12 such a purchase, including, but not limited to, the cost-benefit
13 of such a purchase, the condition of the rail line and any needed
14 repairs or upgrades, the cost of the purchase and the method of
15 financing the purchase and any necessary repairs or upgrades.

16 (2) (a) There is hereby created an oversight committee to
17 be composed of the Chairmen of the Senate Highways and
18 Transportation Committee, the Senate Ports and Marine Resources
19 Committee, the House of Representative Transportation Committee
20 and Local and the House of Representative Local and Private
21 Legislation Committee.

22 (b) The Mississippi Development Authority and the State
23 Port at Gulfport shall meet regularly with the oversight committee
24 and brief them on the progress of the study.

25 (3) The Mississippi Development Authority shall file the
26 results of the feasibility study along with any recommendations
27 regarding the purchase of the rail line with the Secretary of the

28 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives by not later
29 than October 30, 2001.

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