

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Farris

To: Ports and Marine Resources; Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 3012  
(As Passed the Senate)

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 Representatives Transportation Committee  
20 and the House of Representatives Local and Private Legislation  
21 Committee, and the Vice Chairman of the Senate Highways and  
22 Transportation Committee and the House of Representatives  
23 Transportation Committee.

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

27 (3) The Mississippi Development Authority shall file the  
28 results of the feasibility study along with any recommendations

29 regarding the purchase of the rail line with the Secretary of the  
30 Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives by not later  
31 than October 30, 2001.

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