HOUSE BILL NO. 1341

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-46-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI LAND, WATER AND TIMBER RESOURCES BOARD MAY PROVIDE FUNDS TO PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PRIVATE ENTITIES THROUGH LOANS, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND ANY OTHER MANNER THE BOARD DETERMINES APPROPRIATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI LAND, WATER AND TIMBER RESOURCES ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 69-46-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

69-46-5. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To develop marketing plans and opportunities for independent farmers in Mississippi;

(b) To encourage the commercialization of new agricultural technology businesses;

(c) To initiate the development of processing facilities for Mississippi agricultural commodities;

(d) To initiate the development of Mississippi wholesale distribution businesses for agricultural inputs and products;

(e) To promote the development of institutional and specialty markets for Mississippi agriculture products;

(f) To encourage additional research for new agricultural product development;

(g) To develop a working relationship with the state offices of the United States Department of Agriculture as may be appropriate for the promotion and development of agriculture in Mississippi;
(h) To promote the rural quality of life in Mississippi through such programs as 4-H, Future Farmers of America and agricultural education;

(i) To file an annual report with the Governor, Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives not later than December 1 of each year, with recommendations for any legislation necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Act;

(j) The board may promulgate and enforce rules and regulations, in accordance with the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Act;

(k) To expend funds out of the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Fund to carry out its powers and duties under the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Act;

(l) The board may provide funds to public entities and private entities through loans, grants, contracts and any other manner the board determines appropriate for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Mississippi Land, Water and Timber Resources Act.

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