

By: Senator(s) Stogner, Hyde-Smith

To: Agriculture; Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2367

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE LABELING OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN ON BEEF SOLD
2 IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR FULLY COOKED MEAT AND
3 FOR MEAT SOLD FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES; TO PROVIDE A
4 PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABELING REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR RELATED
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) To the extent allowed by the Federal Meat
8 Inspection Act and applicable federal meat inspection regulations,
9 any person who sells processed or unprocessed meat, whether fresh
10 or frozen, in Mississippi after January 1, 2003, shall indicate in
11 clear and conspicuous letters on the meat, the immediate wrapping
12 or container, or a sign included with the display if the meat is
13 displayed for sale or sold unwrapped, either the name of the
14 country of origin preceded by the words "product of" or the
15 country of origin of the meat using one (1) of the following
16 designations: "Imported," "American" or "Blend" of imported and
17 American meats.

18 (2) Whoever violates this section shall be subject to a
19 civil penalty of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for
20 each act of violation. Each day on which a violation occurs shall
21 be a separate offense. Penalties may be assessed at a hearing
22 held by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.

23 (3) The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
24 shall administer and enforce this section and shall adopt rules
25 and regulations necessary to carry out this section.

26 (4) This section shall not apply to prepared meat which is
27 sold at retail for consumption on the premises and fully cooked



28 meat as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture
29 Food Safety Inspection Service rules and regulations.

30 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
31 and after July 1, 2002.

