

By: Senator(s) Stogner

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2873
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO TRANSFER SUPERVISION, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE VETERINARY
3 DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TO THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AT
4 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 69-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 69-15-11. * * *

9 (1) The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State
10 University of Agriculture and Applied Science shall maintain a
11 complete and adequate veterinary diagnostic laboratory in the
12 Jackson vicinity and any person licensed to practice veterinary
13 medicine, veterinary surgery, veterinary dentistry, or any
14 vocational-agriculture teacher, bona fide farmer or county agent
15 in the State of Mississippi or agent of the State Veterinarian
16 shall have made available to him services of the laboratory. The
17 laboratory shall examine and conduct laboratory tests on specimens
18 submitted by any licensed veterinarian, or vocational-agriculture
19 teacher, bona fide farmer or county agent of this state or agent
20 of the State Veterinarian and issue appropriate reports. The
21 College of Veterinary Medicine shall be required to set reasonable
22 fees for such examinations, tests, reports or other diagnostic
23 service.

24 (2) The College of Veterinary Medicine shall select a
25 director of the laboratory who holds a degree of veterinary
26 medicine from a recognized college or university; is board
27 certified in one (1) of the following basic diagnostic
28 disciplines; toxicology, pathology, microbiology, virology or



29 clinical pathology and has engaged in the practice of veterinary
30 clinical diagnosis for at least ten (10) years, five (5) years of
31 which were in a supervisory capacity. The director shall select
32 and recommend for employment such veterinarians, bacteriologists,
33 pathologists, technicians, clerical assistants, and other
34 personnel necessary to carry out the objective of this section.
35 The salaries, compensation and expenses of such employees shall be
36 sufficient to insure the employment of competent persons and shall
37 be paid from funds at the disposal of the Veterinary Diagnostic
38 Laboratory. The director shall be responsible to the College of
39 Veterinary Medicine for the daily operations of the laboratory.

40 (3) There is created an advisory council to advise the
41 College of Veterinary Medicine on matters concerning the
42 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The council shall be composed
43 of the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, or his
44 designee; the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, or his
45 designee; the Chairman of the Board of Animal Health; the
46 Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; a person appointed by
47 the President of Alcorn State University from its land grant staff
48 who is not a member of the Board of Animal Health; a licensed and
49 practicing veterinarian appointed by the President of the
50 Mississippi State Veterinary Medical Association who is not a
51 member of the Board of Animal Health; the State Veterinarian; the
52 State Chemist; and the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.
53 This advisory council shall meet at least twice a year, upon
54 written notification at least fourteen (14) days in advance, to be
55 called by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. A
56 meeting may also be called by the Commissioner of Agriculture or
57 by a majority of the advisory council with fourteen (14) days'
58 written notice.

59 The members of the advisory council shall serve in an
60 advisory capacity only. For attending meetings of the council,
61 legislators shall receive per diem and expenses which shall be



62 paid from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses
63 in the same amounts provided for committee meetings when the
64 Legislature is not in session; however, no per diem or expenses
65 for attending meetings of the council shall be paid while the
66 Legislature is in session. No per diem and expenses shall be paid
67 except for attending meetings of the council without prior
68 approval of the proper committee in their respective houses.

69 (4) All funds, property and other assets and all current
70 positions of the diagnostic laboratory shall be transferred to the
71 College of Veterinary Medicine on July 1, 2002. The budget of the
72 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory shall be funded as a separate
73 line item within the general appropriation bill for the College of
74 Veterinary Medicine.

75 (5) Information and records pertaining to all animal
76 diseases within the state will be kept confidential except for
77 those reports concerning diseases that are specifically regulated
78 for mandatory control and eradication, or when release of such
79 information is deemed necessary by the State Veterinarian to
80 protect the public health, other livestock or wildlife.

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

