HOUSE BILL NO. 477

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FROM CHARGING THEIR
CUSTOMERS A FEE FOR PROCESSING INSURANCE DRAFTS PAYABLE TO THE
CUSTOMER FOR DAMAGE SUSTAINED IN A NATURAL DISASTER; AND FOR
RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) A financial institution shall not charge a
fee to a customer of the financial institution for cashing,
handling or processing a draft from an insurance company that is
payable to the customer for damage sustained by the customer in a
natural disaster, such as a hurricane, flood, tornado, wind, ice
storm or earthquake.

(2) As used in this section, the following terms shall have
the following meanings:

(a) "Customer" means an individual who has a checking
or savings account at a financial institution.
(b) "Financial institution" means:
   (i) Any bank, savings association, savings and
   loan association, savings bank or credit union incorporated under
   the laws of the State of Mississippi that offers checking or
   savings accounts to Mississippi residents;
   (ii) Any bank, savings association, savings and
   loan association or credit union incorporated under the laws of
   the United States and having an office in Mississippi that offers
   checking or savings accounts to Mississippi residents; and
   (iii) Any bank, savings association, savings and
   loan association, savings bank or credit union incorporated under
   the laws of another state and having an office in Mississippi that
   offers checking or savings accounts to Mississippi residents.
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.