HOUSE BILL NO. 874

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 19-3-81, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE SHERIFF OF ANY COUNTY WHO OPERATES INMATE CANTEEN FACILITY MAY EXPEND MONIES DEPOSITED INTO THE INMATE CANTEEN FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ANY EDUCATIONAL RELATED EXPENSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 19-3-81, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

19-3-81. (1) (a) The board of supervisors of any county is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to allow the sheriff of the county to operate a facility or facilities to be known as an inmate canteen facility or facilities, the purpose of which is to make available certain goods and other items of value for purchase by inmates confined in the county jail of such county, employees of the county jail and persons visiting inmates or employees. The sheriff of the county shall promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of the facility.

(b) If the board of supervisors of any county authorizes the sheriff of the county to operate a facility or facilities as provided in subsection (1) of this section, any funds which may be derived from the operation of an inmate canteen facility or facilities shall be deposited into a special fund in the county treasury to be designated as the "Inmate Canteen Fund."

Any monies in the special fund may be expended solely by the sheriff of the county for any educational related expenses and, to purchase equipment and supplies and to provide for maintenance of the equipment purchased for the benefit and welfare of the inmates.
incarcerated in the county jail. The term "supplies" shall not include supplies related to the personal hygiene of inmates.

(2) In lieu of the authority to operate an inmate canteen facility under subsection (1) of this section, the board of supervisors of any county, in its discretion, may authorize the sheriff to contract with a private company for the provision of commissary services to inmates of the county jail. Money collected from or on behalf of an inmate for the purchase of commissary items shall be deposited to the credit of the inmate into a special fund in the county treasury to be designated as the "Inmate Commissary Trust Fund." Money in the special fund may be expended upon requisition by the sheriff for the purchase and delivery of prepackaged items from the company with which the sheriff has contracted. The sheriff shall adopt rules and regulations for the letting of contracts for commissary services, the collection and distribution of commissary items to inmates, and the items that inmates may purchase through commissary services contracts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.