

By: Representative Green

To: County Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 874

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

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

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

9 19-3-81. (1) (a) The board of supervisors of any county is
10 hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to allow the
11 sheriff of the county to operate a facility or facilities to be
12 known as an inmate canteen facility or facilities, the purpose of
13 which is to make available certain goods and other items of value
14 for purchase by inmates confined in the county jail of such
15 county, employees of the county jail and persons visiting inmates
16 or employees. The sheriff of the county shall promulgate rules
17 and regulations for the operation of the facility.

18 (b) If the board of supervisors of any county
19 authorizes the sheriff of the county to operate * * * a facility
20 or facilities as provided in subsection (1) of this section, any
21 funds which may be derived from the operation of an inmate canteen
22 facility or facilities shall be deposited into a special fund in
23 the county treasury to be designated as the "Inmate Canteen Fund."
24 Any monies in the special fund may be expended solely by the
25 sheriff of the county for any educational related expenses and, to
26 purchase equipment and supplies and to provide for maintenance of
27 the equipment purchased for the benefit and welfare of the inmates



28 incarcerated in the county jail. The term "supplies" shall not
29 include supplies related to the personal hygiene of inmates.

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

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

