

By: Representative Blackmon

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 1374

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-17-457, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO CLARIFY LOCAL IMPOSITION OF PRIVILEGE LICENSE FEES AGAINST  
3 BUILDING-INDUSTRY CONTRACTORS; TO CODIFY SECTION 17-27-1,  
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES  
5 TO GRANT EXAMINATION RECIPROCITY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND  
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 27-17-457, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 27-17-457. (1) No contractor, including, but not limited  
11 to, any electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, water  
12 and sewer, roofing or mechanical contractor \* \* \* who holds a  
13 privilege license under this chapter shall \* \* \* advertise to the  
14 public that he is "licensed" unless he is \* \* \* in compliance with  
15 all competency examination requirements of the local jurisdiction  
16 in which he does business or holds a current license or  
17 certificate of responsibility from the State Board of Contractors.  
18 Any officer collecting privilege tax may suspend the issuance or  
19 renewal of a privilege license \* \* \* until such time as the  
20 licensee is in compliance with the provisions of this section. If  
21 a person advertises himself to the public as "licensed," the  
22 person must state to the public that he is "licensed by the city  
23 of" or "county of" followed by the name or names of the  
24 appropriate cities and counties in which the person \* \* \*  
25 currently holds a license issued on the basis of a competency  
26 exam, \* \* \* or, if \* \* \* appropriate, "licensed by the State Board  
27 of Contractors."

28 (2) No additional privilege license fee shall be required in  
29 order for a contractor having a single business location to do



30 business in another municipality or county in the state if the  
31 contractor has paid a privilege license fee in the municipality or  
32 county where he is domiciled. However, every jurisdiction in  
33 which a contractor does business may impose its own separate  
34 bonding requirements on the contractor desiring to do business  
35 there.

36 (3) Any contractor who operates more than one (1) separate  
37 place of business within the state must obtain the appropriate  
38 privilege license and pay the privilege license fee for each  
39 location if required by the local jurisdiction.

40 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section  
41 17-27-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

42 17-27-1. Every municipality and county of the State of  
43 Mississippi shall grant competency examination reciprocity to any  
44 contractor, including, but not limited to, any electrical,  
45 plumbing, heating and air conditioning, water and sewer, roofing  
46 or mechanical contractor, who is licensed by another municipality  
47 or county of this state without imposing any further competency  
48 examination requirements provided:

49 (a) That the contractor furnishes evidence that he has  
50 a license issued on the basis of a competency examination  
51 administered in one (1) municipality or county of the State of  
52 Mississippi which has an examining board that regularly gives a  
53 written examination which has been approved by the State Board of  
54 Public Contractors or the Building Officials Association of  
55 Mississippi;

56 (b) That he furnishes evidence that he actually took  
57 and passed the written examination which qualified him for such  
58 license; however, in lieu thereof, he may furnish evidence that  
59 he was issued a license prior to May 1, 1972, and prior to the  
60 existence of a written examination by a county or municipality  
61 which has an examining board that requires written examination to  
62 qualify for a license;



63           (c) That he has been actively engaged in the business  
64 for which he is licensed for two (2) years or more;

65           (d) That he has held a license for his business for one  
66 (1) year or more; and

67           (e) That he pays the license fee to the municipality or  
68 county to which application is made for a license unless he holds  
69 a current certificate of responsibility issued by the State Board  
70 of Public Contractors, in which case no license fee shall be  
71 collected.

72           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
73 and after July 1, 2003.

