MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2003

By: Senator(s) Thames
To: Fees, Salaries and Administration

SENATE BILL NO. 2304

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-77, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE DEADLINE BY WHICH THE STATE AUDITOR MUST FILE ANNUALLY WITH THE LEGISLATURE A REPORT ON STATE-OWNED VEHICLES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25-1-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-1-77. (1) No state department, institution or agency shall purchase any motor vehicle, regardless of the source of funds from which the motor vehicle is to be purchased, except under authority granted by the Department of Finance and Administration. The Department of Finance and Administration shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the purchase of any motor vehicle by a state department, institution or agency with regard to the appropriateness of the vehicle to its intended use. The Department of Finance and Administration shall not grant authority to purchase a motor vehicle which is not the most appropriate vehicle type for its intended use unless specifically approved by the Legislature.

(2) It is not the intent of the Legislature for the Department of Finance and Administration to determine the sufficient number of motor vehicles needed by each state department, institution or agency, but to regulate the purchase so that the vehicle is the most appropriate type for its intended use. Further, it is the intent of the Legislature that any motor vehicle purchased shall be made with due concern for economical and efficient use, but shall also meet the needs of the department, institution or agency. The department, institution or
agency shall maintain proper documentation signed by the executive
director which provides the intended use of the vehicle and the
basis for choosing the vehicle. Such documentation shall show
that the department, institution or agency made reasonable efforts
to purchase a vehicle that is economical and appropriate for its
intended use. All such documentation shall be maintained and made
available for review by the State Auditor and any other reviewing
agency.

(3) The State Auditor shall make on-site visits and conduct
audits necessary to ensure the intent of this section. On or
before September 1 of each year, the State Auditor shall prepare
and deliver to the Senate and House Fees, Salaries and
Administration Committees and the Joint Legislative Budget
Committee a report containing any irregularities that he finds
concerning purchases of state-owned vehicles.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after its passage.