

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Labor; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2614

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI EMPLOYMENT
 2 SECURITY COMMISSION TO SUPERVISE AND CONTRACT FOR INSPECTION OF
 3 MIGRANT FARM LABOR AND NONFARM LABOR TEMPORARY HOUSING LIVING
 4 CONDITIONS, AND TO COORDINATE FEDERAL AND OTHER PROGRAMS RELATING
 5 THERETO; TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND FUNDS
 6 FROM ANY SOURCE RELATING TO SUCH MIGRANT LABOR PROGRAMS; TO
 7 ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARM WORKERS ADVISORY
 8 COUNCIL TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMISSION IN THE SUPERVISION
 9 AND COORDINATION OF SUCH MIGRANT LABOR PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Employment Security
 13 Commission, established and empowered under Section 71-5-101,
 14 Mississippi Code of 1972, with the assistance of the Mississippi
 15 Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Advisory Council established in
 16 this section, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to do
 17 the following relating to the temporary housing conditions of
 18 migrant farm labor and migrant nonfarm labor in Mississippi:

19 (a) To maintain a continuing consultative examination
 20 and supervision of the migrant farm labor and nonfarm labor
 21 programs relating to living conditions; health, housing inspection
 22 and sanitation; labor laws; education; transportation safety;
 23 public assistance; and coordination of federal, state and local
 24 programs relating thereto;

25 (b) To cooperate with other state agencies of this
 26 state in developing improvements in existing programs in order to
 27 discover and establish better coordination of migrant labor
 28 programs;

29 (c) To cooperate with commissions, agencies and
 30 committees of other states having similar responsibilities,



31 whereby migrant labor programs shall have a continuing
32 administration, application and effectiveness from state to state;

33 (d) To develop a comprehensive plan to permit the
34 operation in this state and cooperatively in participating states
35 of improving the living and working conditions for migrant labor;

36 (e) To accept and expend funds from federal and any
37 other source made available for improvement of living conditions
38 and housing accommodations for migrant farm and nonfarm workers;

39 (f) To develop an accurate statewide census of migrant
40 and seasonal farm and nonfarm workers and determine the cost of
41 supportive programs associated with such workers; and

42 (g) To make an annual report of its findings,
43 recommendations and any proposed legislation to the Legislature.

44 (2) If adequate federal or state funds are available the
45 Mississippi Employment Security Commission shall contract to
46 provide a pre-occupancy housing inspection program and shall
47 report the results of any inspections to the Mississippi Migrant
48 and Seasonal Farm/Nonfarm Workers Advisory Council before October
49 first of each year. The members of the commission and advisory
50 council are immune from liability for any action that may be
51 brought in connection with the inspection program.

52 (3) There is hereby created the Mississippi Migrant and
53 Seasonal Farm and Nonfarm Workers Advisory Council to advise the
54 Mississippi Employment Security Commission in carrying out its
55 duties and responsibilities under this section. The membership of
56 the advisory council shall consist of five (5) appointed and three
57 (3) ex officio members, as follows: (a) three (3) farmers whose
58 principle source of income is derived from farming and who
59 contract for migrant or seasonal farm workers, or both, and one
60 (1) nonfarmer who contracts for migrant or seasonal farm workers,
61 or both, such individuals to be appointed by the Governor, with
62 the advice and consent of the Senate, with one (1) to be appointed
63 from each of the current four (4) Mississippi Congressional



64 districts; (b) one (1) member to represent the interests of
65 migrant or seasonal farm or nonfarm workers; and the Executive
66 Director of the Mississippi Employment Security Commission, or his
67 designee; the Executive Director of the State Board of Health, or
68 his designee; and the State Superintendent of Education, or his
69 designee. Terms of office of appointed members are commensurate
70 with that of the Governor and until a successor is appointed and
71 qualifies. The advisory council shall elect a chairman and such
72 other officers as it deems necessary. The advisory council shall
73 meet at least once in each quarter and at such other times as may
74 be necessary upon the call of the chairman. Members who are not
75 public employees shall receive mileage and expense reimbursement
76 as paid state employees when on official business, if funds are
77 made available for such purpose from federal sources or otherwise.
78 The Mississippi Employment Security Commission is designated as
79 the administrative agency of the advisory council.

80 (4) Any state agency or private service agency which
81 receives state or federal funds to provide services to migrant or
82 seasonal farm or nonfarm workers shall file an annual written
83 report with the advisory council describing the amount of state
84 and federal funds received, inspection activities, the services
85 offered, the number of migrant and seasonal workers and their
86 family members served, and all other pertinent information
87 requested by the commission or the advisory council.

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

