

By: Representatives Robinson (84th), Chism, Denny, Ellington, Ishee, Lott, Martinson, Masterson, Moore, Reed, Rotenberry, Wells-Smith, Zuber

To: Labor

## HOUSE BILL NO. 959

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT LABOR UNIONS SHALL FURNISH CERTAIN  
2 REPORTS TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING HOW THEIR UNION DUES WERE SPENT;  
3 TO REQUIRE LABOR UNIONS TO RECEIVE ANNUAL, UP-FRONT, WRITTEN  
4 PERMISSION FROM EACH INDIVIDUAL WORKER BEFORE SPENDING HIS OR HER  
5 DUES FOR POLITICAL OR OTHER NONCOLLECTIVE BARGAINING PURPOSES; TO  
6 PROVIDE THAT EMPLOYEES WHO DID NOT PROVIDE SUCH WRITTEN PERMISSION  
7 MAY WITHHOLD PAYMENT OR RECEIVE REFUNDS OF THE PORTION OF THE  
8 UNION DUES SPENT ON NONCOLLECTIVE BARGAINING ACTIVITIES; AND FOR  
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) Each labor union shall furnish employees who  
12 are either dues-paying members of the labor union or dues-paying  
13 nonmembers of the labor union with an annual, independent audit  
14 report as to how such dues were spent by the labor union over the  
15 past year.

16 (2) Labor unions must receive annual, up-front, written  
17 permission from each individual worker before spending his or her  
18 dues for political or other noncollective bargaining purposes.  
19 "Noncollective bargaining activities" does not include contract  
20 administration or grievance adjustment activities.

21 (3) If an employee did not provide the permission as  
22 required in subsection (2) of this section, the employee may  
23 withhold payment or receive refunds of the portion of the union  
24 dues spent on noncollective bargaining activities, including  
25 political contributions.

26 (4) For purposes of this section, the term "labor union"  
27 includes an organization or agency that permits its exclusive  
28 bargaining representative and an employer to enter into an  
29 agreement requiring all employees in the bargaining unit to pay  
30 periodic union dues and invitation fees as a condition of

31 continued employment whether or not the employees otherwise wish  
32 to become union members.

33         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
34 and after July 1, 2004.