

By: Representatives Formby, Dedeaux,  
Frierson, Upshaw

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1216

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE MISSISSIPPI TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
2 CENTER AT THE JOHN C. STENNIS SPACE CENTER AS A CENTER OF  
3 EXCELLENCE IN GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, in 1978 the State of Mississippi built a fifty  
5 thousand (50,000) square foot facility at the John C. Stennis  
6 Space Center in order to facilitate the transfer of technology  
7 from NASA, the United States Navy and other federal agencies  
8 located in south Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, this facility is known as Building 1103, the  
10 Mississippi Technology Transfer Center; and

11 WHEREAS, on May 20, 1987, Executive Order Number 576 was  
12 signed by Governor Bill Allain to allocate thirty percent (30%) of  
13 the Mississippi Technology Transfer Center for the state to  
14 operate a technology transfer effort to produce high wage  
15 technology jobs; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1987 Executive Order Number 576 and Chapter 518,  
17 General Laws of 1988, established at the John C. Stennis Space  
18 Center a Mississippi Technology Transfer Office to build upon the  
19 technology base that exists in south Mississippi; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology,  
21 Inc., was established in cooperation with the Mississippi  
22 Development Authority, NASA and the institutions of higher  
23 learning in the State of Mississippi, and is located in Building  
24 1103; and

25 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Inc., a  
26 private, nonprofit organization dedicated to creating high-skill,  
27 high-wage jobs in Mississippi, currently operates a

28 technology-based business incubator in Building 1103 in order to  
29 provide support for the growth of start-up technology businesses  
30 in south Mississippi; and

31 WHEREAS, the Center of Higher Learning, which is a  
32 partnership between the University of Southern Mississippi and  
33 other institutions of higher learning, including Jackson State  
34 University, is also located in Building 1103 and provides academic  
35 programs to support the growth of these small businesses; and

36 WHEREAS, in 1999, the Enterprise for Innovative Geospatial  
37 Solutions was established as a research partnership between the  
38 University of Mississippi and NASA to sponsor the development of  
39 nationally recognized remote sensing companies in Building 1103;  
40 and

41 WHEREAS, in 2002, the GeoResources Institute, which is a  
42 program established by Mississippi State University, opened an  
43 office in Building 1103 to support the development of geospatial  
44 technologies at John C. Stennis Space Center; and

45 WHEREAS, there now exist in the Mississippi Technology  
46 Transfer Center twenty-two (22) geospatial companies, four (4)  
47 nonprofit research and commercialization companies, offices of  
48 four (4) major research universities and a high performance  
49 visualization laboratory supporting one hundred thirty-two (132)  
50 jobs in geospatial technologies; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

52 **SECTION 1.** Building 1103, the Mississippi Technology  
53 Transfer Center is designated as a Center of Excellence for  
54 Geospatial Technologies in the State of Mississippi.

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