

By: Senator(s) Williamson

To: Agriculture;  
Appropriations

## SENATE BILL NO. 2327

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A POULTRY GROWERS GRIEVANCE BOARD; TO  
2 PROVIDE FOR GRIEVANCES TO BE HEARD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
5 Mississippi Poultry Growers Grievance Act.

6 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act:

7 (a) "Board" means the Poultry Growers Grievance Review  
8 Board created in this act.

9 (b) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the  
10 Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

11 (c) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of  
12 Agriculture and Commerce.

13 (d) "Grower" means a person who grows, raises or  
14 produces poultry or poultry products and contracts with a  
15 processor to provide management, labor, machinery, facilities or  
16 any other production input for the production of poultry or  
17 poultry products.

18 (e) "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
19 association, corporation, limited liability company, or any other  
20 legal entity.

21 (f) "Processor" means a person who in the ordinary  
22 course of business, buys poultry or poultry products grown, raised  
23 or produced in this state or who contracts with a grower to grow,  
24 raise or produce poultry or poultry products in this state.

25 **SECTION 3.** There is hereby created the Mississippi Poultry  
26 Growers Grievance Review Board and its office shall be located in  
27 Jackson, Mississippi. The board shall be composed of six (6)

28 members: one (1) member shall be the Commissioner of Agriculture  
29 and Commerce as ex officio member. One (1) member shall be  
30 appointed from each congressional district and the remainder from  
31 the state at large. The commissioner shall appoint the members to  
32 terms of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years,  
33 respectively, so as to stagger the terms. After the expiration of  
34 the initial terms, the terms shall be for four (4) years. Each  
35 member shall serve, after the completion of his term, until his  
36 successor is appointed and duly qualified. Each vacancy shall be  
37 filled by appointment for the unexpired term.

38 **SECTION 4.** (1) The powers and duties of the board shall  
39 include, but be not limited to, the following:

40 (a) To hear grievances of growers and producers. The  
41 grievance procedure shall be voluntary.

42 (b) To schedule each session of the grievance process  
43 in a timely manner and to hold the session in a location  
44 convenient to the parties involved.

45 (2) All material, data and information received by the  
46 board, with respect to any grievance filed under this act, are  
47 confidential and not subject to the Public Records Act. No  
48 official or employee of the board may knowingly disclose any such  
49 information without the consent of the parties involved.

50 (3) The state shall bear the cost of the grievance process  
51 including the cost of all meetings.

52 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
53 and after July 1, 2004.