

By: Representative Pierce

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 588

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 75-63-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THAT CONTRACT SELLERS OF PRENEED FUNERAL SERVICES AND
3 MERCHANDISE SHALL PLACE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE FUNDS RECEIVED
4 FOR SUCH CONTRACTS IN A TRUST ACCOUNT IN A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION;
5 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 75-63-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 75-63-59. (1) If the contract is funded by trust, the
10 Secretary of State shall be given a copy of the trust document and
11 shall be informed in writing as to how the assets of the trust are
12 held. In the event of any change in the investments of the assets
13 of the trust, or change in the trustee or trust institution, the
14 Secretary of State shall be informed not less than thirty (30)
15 days after the time such change occurs.

16 (2) Any trustee, other than a financial institution, shall
17 not be the contract provider, the seller, or an officer or
18 director of the contract provider if the contract provider is a
19 corporation.

20 (3) Within twenty (20) days from the end of the month in
21 which the funds were received, the contract seller shall place in
22 a trust account in a financial institution as defined by this
23 article one hundred percent (100%) of the funds received. * * *

24 (4) Reasonable annual trust fees including any income taxes
25 owed to the State of Mississippi and/or the United States Treasury
26 may be withheld from the earnings of the trust.

27 (5) At the time of death, if the contract provider provides
28 the merchandise and services indicated in the contract, the

29 contract provider shall furnish to the trustee a copy of the
30 buyer's death certificate or proof of death and a letter of
31 performance indicating that the contracted merchandise and
32 services were provided by the contract provider to the contract
33 insured. Upon receipt of the letter of performance and death
34 certificate, or proof of death, the trustee shall pay to the
35 contract provider all funds.

36 (6) If the contract provider does not furnish merchandise
37 and services as provided in the pre-need contract, the trustee
38 shall pay to the estate of the contract insured or the substitute
39 provider not less than the amount deposited in trust, within ten
40 (10) days from notification of the death of the contract insured.

41 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
42 and after July 1, 2005.