

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2778

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 61-3-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS
3 TO PROMOTE AIRPORT INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 61-3-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 61-3-15. An authority shall have all the powers necessary or
9 convenient to carry out the purposes of this chapter (excluding
10 the power to levy and collect taxes or special assessments)
11 including, but not limited to, the power:

12 (a) To sue and be sued, to have a seal and to have
13 perpetual succession.

14 (b) To purchase general liability insurance coverage,
15 including errors and omissions insurance, for its officials and
16 employees.

17 (c) To employ an executive director, secretary,
18 technical experts, and such other officers, agents and employees,
19 permanent and temporary, as it may require, and to determine their
20 qualifications and duties, and to establish compensation and other
21 employment benefits as may be advisable to attract and retain
22 proficient personnel.

23 (d) To execute such contracts and other instruments and
24 take such other action as may be necessary or convenient to carry
25 out the purposes of this chapter.

26 (e) To plan, establish, develop, construct, enlarge,
27 improve, maintain, equip, operate, regulate and protect airports
28 and air navigation facilities within this state and within any

29 adjoining state, including the acquisition, lease, lease-purchase,
30 construction, installation, equipment, maintenance and operation
31 of such airports or buildings, equipment and other facilities or
32 other property for the servicing of aircraft or for the comfort
33 and accommodation of air travelers or for any other purpose deemed
34 by the authority to be necessary to carry out its duties; to
35 develop, operate, manage or own and maintain intermodal facilities
36 to serve air and surface cargo and multimodal facilities to serve
37 highway and rail passenger transportation needs to ensure
38 interface and interaction between modes for cargo and passengers;
39 to market, promote and advertise airport properties, goods and
40 services; and to directly purchase and sell supplies, goods and
41 commodities incident to the operation of its airport properties
42 without having to make purchases thereof through the municipal
43 governing authorities. For such purposes an authority may, by
44 purchase, gift, devise, lease, eminent domain proceedings or
45 otherwise, acquire property, real or personal, or any interest
46 therein, including easements in airport hazards or land outside
47 the boundaries of an airport or airport site, as are necessary to
48 permit the removal, elimination, obstruction-marking or
49 obstruction-lighting of airport hazards, to prevent the
50 establishment of airport hazards or to carry out its duties.

51 (f) To acquire, by purchase, gift, devise, lease,
52 lease-purchase, eminent domain proceedings or otherwise, existing
53 airports and air navigation facilities. However, an authority
54 shall not acquire or take over any airport or air navigation
55 facility owned or controlled by another authority, a municipality
56 or public agency of this or any other state without the consent of
57 such authority, municipality or public agency.

58 (g) To establish or acquire and maintain airports in,
59 over and upon any public waters of this state, and any submerged
60 lands under such public waters, and to construct and maintain
61 terminal buildings, landing floats, causeways, roadways and

62 bridges for approaches to or connecting with any such airport, and
63 landing floats and breakwaters for the protection thereof.

64 (h) To establish, enact and enforce ordinances, rules,
65 regulations and standards for public safety, aviation safety,
66 airport operations and the preservation of good order and peace of
67 the authority; to prevent injury to, destruction of or
68 interference with public or private property; to protect property,
69 health and lives and to enhance the general welfare of the
70 authority by restricting the movements of citizens or any group
71 thereof on the property of the authority when there is imminent
72 danger to the public safety because of freedom of movement
73 thereof; to regulate the entrances to property and buildings of
74 the authority and the way of ingress and egress to and from the
75 same; to establish fire limits and to regulate, restrain or
76 prohibit construction failing to meet standards established by the
77 authority; to appoint and discharge police officers with
78 jurisdiction limited to property of the airport authority and
79 authorization to enforce the ordinances, rules and regulations of
80 the authority, as well as the laws of the State of Mississippi,
81 and to issue citations for infractions of all of such ordinances,
82 rules, regulations, standards and laws of the State of Mississippi
83 returnable to the court of appropriate jurisdiction.

84 (i) To develop and operate an industrial park or parks
85 and exercise all authority provided for under Chapter 7, Title 57,
86 Mississippi Code of 1972.

87 (j) To attach, pursuant to the power and procedure set
88 forth in Chapter 33, Title 11, Mississippi Code of 1972, the
89 equipment of debtors of the authority.

90 (k) To enter into agreements with local governments
91 pursuant to Section 17-13-1 et seq.

92 (l) To enter into cooperative or exchange agreements
93 with airports, trade associations or other enterprises in foreign
94 countries for the purpose of promoting airport international

95 commerce and to establish a trade development and promotion
96 account to pay all direct and necessary expenses for the promotion
97 and development of airport properties, goods and services.

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