

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2645: MS Telecommunication Conference and Training Facility Reserve Fund; clarify authorized expenditures.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 31-31-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 31-31-11. (1) For the purpose of providing funds for the
9 payment of a certain portion of the debt service on any bonds
10 issued pursuant to this chapter and for the purpose of providing
11 funds for the maintenance of the facility and renovations,
12 improvements and additions to the facility, there is hereby
13 levied, assessed and shall be collected from every person engaging
14 in or doing business in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, as
15 specified herein, a tax which may be cited as an "occupancy tax,"
16 which shall be in addition to all other taxes now imposed. Such
17 tax shall be upon each hotel and motel located within the City of
18 Jackson in the amount of Seventy-five Cents (75¢) per day for each
19 occupied room.

20 (2) Persons liable for the tax imposed herein shall add the
21 amount of tax to the price of rooms, and in addition thereto shall
22 collect, insofar as practicable, the amount of the tax due by him
23 from the person receiving the services or goods at the time of
24 payment therefor.

25 (3) Such tax shall be collected by and paid to the State Tax
26 Commission on a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission, in

27 the same manner that state sales taxes are collected and paid; and
28 the full enforcement provisions and all other provisions of
29 Chapter 65, Title 27, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall apply as
30 necessary to the implementation and administration of this
31 chapter.

32 (4) The proceeds of such tax shall be deposited by the State
33 Tax Commission into the reserve fund created pursuant to
34 subsection (5) of this section on or before the fifteenth day of
35 the month following the month in which collected by the State Tax
36 Commission.

37 (5) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special
38 fund to be called the "Mississippi Telecommunication Conference
39 and Training Facility Reserve Fund." Money in the fund at the end
40 of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the general fund and
41 interest earned on any amount deposited into the fund shall be
42 credited to the special fund. Money in the fund shall be used to
43 pay a portion of the debt service of the bonds issued pursuant to
44 this chapter as specified in subsection (6) of this section and to
45 provide funds for the maintenance and operation of the facility,
46 including, but not limited to, the director and all other
47 personnel for operational purposes. Provided, however, that not
48 more than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be
49 available from the special fund to defray the costs of operation
50 of the facility from and after passage of this act through June
51 30, 2005.

52 (6) The amount of the debt service that shall be paid
53 annually from the reserve fund shall be the amount of the debt
54 service on bonds attributable to forty percent (40%) of the cost
55 of constructing the facility and the amount of the debt service on
56 bonds attributable to all land acquisition costs. Amounts
57 remaining in the fund in any fiscal year after the payments
58 required by this subsection for debt service, may be used by the

59 commission to provide funds for the maintenance of the facility
60 and renovations, improvements and additions to the facility.

61 (7) Before the taxes authorized by this chapter shall be
62 imposed, the municipal governing authorities of the City of
63 Jackson shall adopt a resolution declaring its intention to levy
64 the tax, setting forth the amount of such tax and establishing the
65 date on which this tax initially shall be levied and collected.
66 This date shall be not less than the first day of the second month
67 from the date of adoption of the resolution.

68 The resolution shall be published in a local newspaper at
69 least twice during the period from the adoption of the resolution
70 to the effective date of the taxation prescribed in this section,
71 with the last publication being made no later than ten (10) days
72 prior to the effective date of such taxation.

73 (8) The tax imposed pursuant to this section shall remain in
74 force and effect until the City of Jackson shall by resolution
75 rescind the tax; provided, however, that the tax imposed pursuant
76 to this section shall not be rescinded if any bonds issued
77 pursuant to this chapter remain outstanding.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-31-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,

2 TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES WHICH MAY BE MADE FROM THE
3 MISSISSIPPI TELECOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE AND TRAINING FACILITY
4 RESERVE FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)
Gordon

X (SIGNED)
Little

X (SIGNED)
Burton

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)
Stringer

X (SIGNED)
Read

(NOT SIGNED)
Brown