

By: Representatives Fredericks, Clark,
Peranich

To: Sel Cmte on Hurricane
Recovery

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1318

1 AN ACT TO BE KNOWN AS THE HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE AND
2 RECOVERY OVERSIGHT ACT; TO MAKE CERTAIN FINDINGS ABOUT THE DAMAGE
3 CAUSED BY HURRICANE KATRINA AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE STATE OF
4 MISSISSIPPI; TO MAKE CERTAIN FINDINGS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF
5 EXISTING STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE STATE
6 AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA; TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
7 ON HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE AND RECOVERY OVERSIGHT AND PROVIDE
8 FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE; TO
9 REQUIRE THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE REPORTS TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR
10 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as "The Hurricane Katrina
13 Response and Recovery Oversight Act of 2006."

14 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Legislature finds that Hurricane Katrina
15 was the worst natural disaster in the state's history. Extensive
16 and prolonged damage caused by the storm has been devastating to
17 infrastructure and to the civil, social, economic and
18 environmental well-being of Mississippi. The entire economic base
19 of Mississippi was undermined, including the ability of
20 individuals to earn an income to support themselves and their
21 families. A loss of this magnitude affects all of Mississippians.
22 Extraordinary assistance to the affected areas is required if this
23 region and, indeed, the entire state is to recover from the short-
24 and long-term effects of the devastation.

25 (2) The Legislature further finds that the devastation
26 caused by Hurricane Katrina was of unprecedented proportions.
27 Devastation of this magnitude was not planned for and could not
28 have been planned for. No policies, no decision making, and no
29 planning could adequately mitigate damage from or prepare an
30 adequate response to such an extraordinary event. However,

31 learning from this tragic event, the Legislature finds that
32 long-term planning for future natural disasters is appropriate.

33 (3) The Legislature further finds that the devastation
34 caused by Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi continues to affect all
35 aspects of the economy, the environment, public health and safety,
36 infrastructure, public and private institutions, and the general
37 welfare of the region and, indirectly, of the entire state.
38 Immediate short-term responses and long-term responses are
39 necessary to preserve a way of life in Mississippi, to preserve
40 the economic condition of the entire state, and to preserve the
41 reputation Mississippi has, nationally and internationally, as a
42 great place to live and a great place to do business.

43 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is hereby created the Joint
44 Legislative Committee on Hurricane Katrina Response and Recovery
45 Oversight. The committee shall consist of seven (7) members of
46 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
47 House, one (1) from each congressional district and three (3)
48 appointed at large, and seven (7) members of the Senate appointed
49 by the Lieutenant Governor, one (1) from each congressional
50 district and three (3) appointed at large.

51 All members shall be entitled to per diem and expenses,
52 except in such cases where the committee meets when the
53 Legislature is in session. The Speaker of the House and the
54 Lieutenant Governor shall each designate a member to serve as
55 cochair of the committee. The cochairs shall be responsible for
56 calling the first meeting of the committee no later than May 1,
57 2006.

58 The committee may organize itself into subcommittees as
59 deemed necessary by the cochairs. The proceedings of the
60 committee shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order on all
61 matters of parliamentary procedure. The committee may adopt any
62 additional rules it determines are necessary to carry out the
63 purposes of this act.

64 (2) The committee shall have the power to:

65 (a) Require that all agencies of state and local
66 government report to the committee on any matters the committee
67 deems relevant to the state's recovery from Hurricane Katrina,

68 (b) Consider ways by which the state may ensure
69 effective and efficient recovery from the ravages of the storm and
70 to consider ways by which the state may mitigate future losses
71 from storms and other natural disasters,

72 (c) Require that any agency of state government shall
73 submit copies of any state plans that it will be tendering to any
74 agency of the United States government as a precondition to the
75 receipt of any funds for hurricane recovery for review and comment
76 by the committee,

77 (d) Compel the production of any paper, file, record,
78 document, or electronically produced or stored data files from any
79 agency of state or local government related in whole or in part to
80 hurricane recovery.

81 (3) The committee may require assistance from any state
82 agency, local governing authority, or any committee of the
83 Legislature in carrying out the purposes of this act.

84 (4) The committee shall annually report to the Legislature
85 no later than December 31, of each year on any findings or
86 recommendations it may have regarding the recovery process,
87 additional needs of storm-damaged areas, and generally any other
88 matter pertinent to recovery from the storm and the prevention and
89 mitigation of damages from future storms and natural disasters.

90 **SECTION 4.** This act shall stand repealed from and after
91 January 1, 2009.

92 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after its passage.