

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2229

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 55-23-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROHIBIT THE MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM COMMISSION FROM
3 CHARGING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY ANY FEE FOR THE USE OF THE
4 STADIUM AT ATHLETIC EVENTS WHEN THE UNIVERSITY IS THE HOME OR
5 VISITING TEAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 55-23-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 55-23-9. The commission shall operate the Mississippi
10 Veterans Memorial Stadium and to that end may employ such agents
11 and employees as may be required in connection therewith. It may
12 enter into contracts for the use of the stadium, and fix the
13 amount of the compensation therefor, and collect the same when
14 due. The commission may take any action authorized in Section
15 55-23-8 relating to the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium and
16 the property described in Section 55-23-8.

17 All monies and revenues, including the amusement tax imposed
18 upon the sale of tickets for admission to the stadium, and all
19 other events on stadium property and all monies arising from other
20 use of stadium property, including that realized from the sale of
21 concessions, shall be paid by the commission to the State
22 Treasurer, to be placed to the credit of a special fund to be
23 known as the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating
24 Fund" and any references in the laws to the "Mississippi Memorial
25 Stadium Fund" or the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Fund"
26 shall mean the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating
27 Fund" unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Any
28 interest earned on amounts deposited in the Mississippi Veterans

29 Memorial Stadium Operating Fund shall be credited to such special
30 fund. Provided, however, that twenty-five percent (25%) of all
31 profits realized by the commission from the sale of concessions at
32 athletic events when Jackson State University is the home team
33 shall be deposited to the credit of a special auxiliary fund and
34 authorized for expenditure by the Board of Trustees of State
35 Institutions of Higher Learning exclusively for the support of
36 intercollegiate athletics at such university. Provided further,
37 that the commission shall not charge Jackson State University any
38 fee for the use of the stadium at athletic events when Jackson
39 State University is the home or visiting team, and any operating
40 expenses incurred by the commission for the use of stadium
41 property at such events shall be paid from the Mississippi
42 Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating Fund. All expenses incident
43 to the operation and upkeep of the facilities and property managed
44 by the commission shall be paid out of the Mississippi Veterans
45 Memorial Stadium Operating Fund by warrants drawn by the
46 Department of Finance and Administration, which shall be issued on
47 the requisition of the commission.

48 All tickets sold to an event conducted in the Mississippi
49 Veterans Memorial Stadium shall have printed in an appropriate and
50 prominent place thereon the words A.C. "Butch" Lambert Field.

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2006.