AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER SHALL ESTABLISH A SEPARATE UNIT AT THE MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE TREATMENT OF BURN VICTIMS, WHICH SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CENTER; TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE NOT LESS THAN $10,000,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CENTER, AND TO APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS ANNUALLY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CENTER; TO AMEND SECTIONS 7-9-70, 21-19-58, 27-19-44.3, 27-39-331 AND 27-39-332, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT APPROPRIATIONS FROM AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND SHALL BE MADE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER INSTEAD OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AFTER THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CENTER IS OPERATIONAL; TO AMEND SECTION 27-7-88, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE INDIVIDUALS WHO FILE A MISSISSIPPI INCOME TAX RETURN TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BURN CARE FUND AT THE TIME OF FILING THEIR TAX RETURN, IN ADDITION TO ANY INCOME TAX LIABILITY THAT THEY PAY WHEN FILING THE TAX RETURN OR IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT OF THEIR TAX REFUND THAT THEY DESIGNATE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 41-59-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH REGARDING A PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO MISSISSIPPI BURN VICTIMS THROUGH THE EXISTING TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM OF HOSPITALS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The University of Mississippi Medical Center shall establish a separate unit at the medical center for the treatment of burn victims, which shall be known as the Mississippi Burn Center.

(2) The Legislature shall appropriate not less than Ten Million Dollars ($10,000,000.00) for the construction of the Mississippi Burn Center, and shall appropriate sufficient funds annually to the University of Mississippi Medical Center for the operation of the Mississippi Burn Center.

SECTION 2. Section 7-9-70, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

7-9-70. (1) There is ** created and established in the State Treasury a special trust fund to be known as the
"Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund." There shall be deposited in such fund (a) all such fees as the State Treasurer is directed to deposit therein under subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.1, under subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.2 and under subsection (5)(b) of Section 27-19-56.4; and (b) any gift, donation, bequest, trust, grant, endowment, transfer of money or securities or any other monies from any source whatsoever as may be designated for deposit in the fund.

(2) The principal of the trust fund created under subsection (1) of this section shall remain inviolate and shall be invested as provided by law. Interest and income derived from investment of the principal of the trust fund may be appropriated by the Legislature and expended exclusively for the support and maintenance of the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center.

(3) From and after June 17, 2005, there shall be created in the State Treasury a fund known as the Mississippi Burn Care Fund. The Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund and any reference to the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund in law shall mean the Mississippi Burn Care Fund. All funds payable to the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund shall, from and after June 17, 2005, be paid to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund. All balances in the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund and the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Fire Fighters Burn Center Escrow Fund shall be transferred to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund on June 17, 2005. All interest earned by funds in the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be credited to the fund and not the General Fund. For fiscal year 2006, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature may appropriate interest, income or other funds credited to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund, and there shall be no requirement that the monies deposited to the fund be held inviolate in trust. Any appropriation of funds from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall
be to the Mississippi Department of Health for the purpose of carrying out its responsibilities established in Section 41-59-5; however, after the Mississippi Burn Center established at the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 1 of this act is operational, any appropriation of funds from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be to the University of Mississippi Medical Center for the operation of the Mississippi Burn Center. The Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be authorized to accept gifts, donations, bequests, appropriations or other grants from any source, governmental or private, for deposit into the fund. The Department of Health, or the University of Mississippi Medical Center after the Mississippi Burn Center is operational, shall be the agency responsible for receiving any such gifts, donations, bequests, appropriations or grants and shall deposit such to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

SECTION 3. Section 21-19-58, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

21-19-58. The board of supervisors of any county, and the governing authorities of any municipality in the state, are authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to make contributions to the Mississippi Department of Health, or the University of Mississippi Medical Center after the Mississippi Burn Center is operational, for deposit to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund from the general fund or federal revenue sharing funds of such county or municipality wherein such funds may be available.

SECTION 4. Section 27-7-88, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-7-88. (1) Each resident individual taxpayer who files a Mississippi income tax return and who will receive a tax refund from the State Tax Commission may designate that a contribution be made to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created in Section 7-9-70, by marking the appropriate box printed on the return under this
subsection. In the case of a joint return, each spouse may designate that a portion of the refund shall be paid to the fund.

The State Tax Commission shall print on the Mississippi income tax form for residents a space for designating the contribution in substantially the following form:

"MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND
I wish to contribute ( )$1 ( )$5 ( )$10 ( )Other $____ of my TAX REFUND TO THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND."

(2) Each resident individual taxpayer who files a Mississippi income tax return, whether or not the individual will receive a tax refund from the State Tax Commission, may choose to make a contribution to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created in Section 7-9-70 at the time of filing his or her tax return, by marking the appropriate box printed on the return under this subsection and paying the amount of the contribution to the State Tax Commission when filing the tax return. The contribution authorized to be made under this subsection shall be in addition to any income tax liability that the individual pays when filing the tax return or in addition to the amount of the individual's tax refund that is designated as a contribution to the fund under subsection (1) of this section. In the case of a joint return, each spouse may make a contribution to the fund under this subsection.

The State Tax Commission shall print on the Mississippi income tax form for residents a space for indicating the amount of the contribution in substantially the following form:

"MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND
I wish to contribute ( )$1 ( )$5 ( )$10 ( )Other $____ to the MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND," in addition to the payment of my income tax liability or in addition to the amount of my tax refund that I designated as a contribution to the fund."

(3) The State Tax Commission shall explain in the instructions accompanying the individual income tax form the
purposes for which the contributions authorized in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall be used.

(4) Subsection (1) of this section shall apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2001, and subsection (2) of this section shall apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007.

(5) The Chairman of the State Tax Commission shall determine annually the total amount designated to be paid to the fund under subsection (1) of this section, along with all interest earned thereon, and the total amount contributed to the fund under subsection (2) of this section, and shall report the total amounts to the State Treasurer, who shall pay those amounts into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

SECTION 5. Section 27-19-44.3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-19-44.3. The Mississippi Department of Health, or the University of Mississippi Medical Center after the Mississippi Burn Center is operational, shall file an annual report with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives not later than January 10 of each year, describing the expenditure of funds appropriated to it from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund received from fees collected from the issuance of distinctive or special license tags under this chapter.

SECTION 6. Section 27-39-331, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

27-39-331. The board of supervisors of any county is authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to set aside, appropriate and expend monies from the general fund to the Mississippi Department of Health, or the University of Mississippi Medical Center after the Mississippi Burn Center is operational, for deposit to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

SECTION 7. Section 27-39-332, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:
27-39-332. The board of supervisors of any county is authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to levy a tax not to exceed one (1) mill per annum upon all taxable property of the county, which shall be provided directly to the Mississippi Department of Health, or the University of Mississippi Medical Center after the Mississippi Burn Center is operational, to support the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

SECTION 8. Section 41-59-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

41-59-5. (1) The State Board of Health shall establish and maintain a program for the improvement and regulation of emergency medical services (hereinafter EMS) in the State of Mississippi. The responsibility for implementation and conduct of this program shall be vested in the State Health Officer of the State Board of Health along with such other officers and boards as may be specified by law or regulation.

(2) The board shall provide for the regulation and licensing of public and private ambulance service, inspection and issuance of permits for ambulance vehicles, training and certification of EMS personnel, including drivers and attendants, the development and maintenance of a statewide EMS records program, development and adoption of EMS regulations, the coordination of an EMS communications system, and other related EMS activities.

(3) The board is authorized to promulgate and enforce such rules, regulations and minimum standards as needed to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The board is authorized to receive any funds appropriated to the board from the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund created in Section 41-59-61 and is further authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council acting in an advisory capacity, to administer the disbursement of such funds to the counties, municipalities and organized emergency
medical service districts and the utilization of such funds by the
same, as provided in Section 41-59-61.

(5) The department acting as the lead agency, in
consultation with and having solicited advice from the EMS
Advisory Council, shall develop a uniform nonfragmented inclusive
statewide trauma care system that provides excellent patient care.
It is the intent of the Legislature that the purpose of this
system is to reduce death and disability resulting from traumatic
injury, and in order to accomplish this goal it is necessary to
assign additional responsibilities to the department. The
department is assigned the responsibility for creating,
implementing and managing the statewide trauma care system. The
department shall be designated as the lead agency for trauma care
systems development. The department shall develop and administer
trauma regulations that include, but are not limited to, the
Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan, trauma system standards,
trauma center designations, field triage, interfacility trauma
transfer, EMS aero medical transportation, trauma data collection,
trauma care system evaluation and management of state trauma
systems funding. The department shall take the necessary steps to
develop, adopt and implement the Mississippi Trauma Care System
Plan and all associated trauma care system regulations necessary
to implement the Mississippi trauma care system. The department
shall cause the implementation of both professional and lay trauma
education programs. These trauma educational programs shall
include both clinical trauma education and injury prevention. As
it is recognized that rehabilitation services are essential for
traumatized individuals to be returned to active, productive
lives, the department shall coordinate the development of the
inclusive trauma system with the Mississippi Department of
Rehabilitation Services and all other appropriate rehabilitation
systems.
(6) The State Board of Health is authorized to receive any funds appropriated to the board from the Mississippi Trauma Care System Fund created in Section 41-59-75. It is further authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee acting in advisory capacities, to administer the disbursements of such funds according to adopted trauma care system regulations.

(7) In addition to the trauma-related duties provided for in this section, the Board of Health shall develop a plan for the delivery of services to Mississippi burn victims through the existing trauma care system of hospitals. Such plan shall be operational by July 1, 2005, and shall include:

(a) Systems by which burn patients will be assigned or transferred to hospitals capable of meeting their needs;

(b) Until the Mississippi Burn Center established at the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 1 of this act is operational, procedures for allocating funds appropriated from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund to hospitals that provide services to Mississippi burn victims; and

(c) Such other provisions necessary to provide burn care for Mississippi residents.

After the Mississippi Burn Center established at the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 1 of this act is operational, the Board of Health shall revise the plan to include the Mississippi Burn Center.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2007.