

By: Representative Watson

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1024

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-80-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE
3 STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY ACT FOR NOT
4 MORE THAN THREE YEARS FOR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES THAT ARE UNABLE TO
5 UTILIZE THE TAX EXEMPTIONS AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN DISASTERS; AND
6 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-80-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 57-80-9. (1) Upon the issuance by the MDA of its
11 certificate of public convenience and necessity, designating
12 certain counties as growth and prosperity counties, any approved
13 business enterprise in any such a growth and prosperity county or
14 any approved business enterprise located within an eligible
15 supervisors district within eight (8) miles of the boundary of the
16 county that meets the criteria of Section 57-80-7(1)(b) shall be
17 exempt from all local taxes levied by the county and all state
18 taxes for a period of ten (10) years or until December 31, 2020,
19 whichever occurs first, and upon consent of any municipality
20 within such county or within such supervisors district and not
21 more than eight (8) miles from the boundary of the county that
22 meets the criteria of Section 57-80-7(1)(b), shall be exempt from
23 all local taxes levied by such municipality for a period of ten
24 (10) years or until December 31, 2020, whichever occurs first;
25 however, if the business enterprise is located in an area that has
26 been declared by the Governor to be a disaster area and as a
27 result of the disaster the business enterprise is unable to
28 utilize the exemption from state taxes, the MDA may extend the

29 duration of the exemption from state taxes for not more than three
30 (3) years or until December 31, 2020, whichever occurs first.

31 (2) The following conditions, along with any other
32 conditions the MDA shall promulgate from time to time by rule or
33 regulation, shall apply to such exemptions: (a) any exemption
34 provided under this chapter is nontransferable and cannot be
35 applied, used or assigned to any other person or business or tax
36 account; (b) no approved business enterprise may claim or use the
37 exemption granted under this chapter unless that enterprise is in
38 full compliance with all state and local tax laws, and related
39 ordinances and resolutions; and (c) the approved business
40 enterprise must enter into an agreement with the MDA which sets
41 out, at a minimum the performance requirements of the approved
42 business enterprise during the term of the exemption and
43 provisions for the recapture of all or a portion of the taxes
44 exempted if the performance requirements of the approved business
45 enterprise are not met.

46 (3) Upon entering into such an agreement, the MDA shall
47 forward such agreement to the State Tax Commission and the
48 affected local taxing authorities so that the exemption can be
49 implemented. The State Tax Commission shall promulgate rules and
50 regulations, in accordance with the Mississippi Administrative
51 Procedures Law, for the implementation of both local and state
52 exemptions granted under this chapter.

53 (4) Any business enterprise that relocates its present
54 operation and jobs to a growth and prosperity county or an
55 eligible supervisors district and not more than eight (8) miles
56 from the boundary of the county that meets the criteria of Section
57 57-80-7(1)(b) from another county in the state shall not receive
58 any of the exemptions granted in this chapter.

59 (5) If the annualized unemployment rate in a growth and
60 prosperity county falls below one hundred fifty percent (150%) of
61 the state's annualized unemployment rate for three (3) consecutive

62 calendar years, the tax exemptions authorized under Sections
63 57-62-5 through 57-62-15 may not be granted to additional business
64 enterprises.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2007.