

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: County Affairs

## SENATE BILL NO. 2377

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ANY COUNTY TO  
2 SET ASIDE FOR EXPENDITURE WITH MINORITY BUSINESSES A CERTAIN  
3 PORTION OF ANNUAL ANTICIPATED CONTRACT EXPENDITURES FOR  
4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC WORK PROJECTS; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** In addition to any authority granted elsewhere by  
8 law, boards of supervisors of counties are hereby authorized and  
9 empowered, in their discretion, in contracting for professional  
10 services and public work projects, to set aside for expenditure  
11 with minority businesses not more than twenty percent (20%) of  
12 their annual anticipated expenditures for such purposes. All such  
13 set-aside expenditures shall comply with all applicable purchasing  
14 regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and  
15 Administration and shall be subject to any bid requirements  
16 otherwise provided by law. Set-aside expenditures for which  
17 competitive bids are required shall be made from the lowest and  
18 best minority business bidder. For the purposes of this act, the  
19 term "minority business" means (a) a business which is owned by a  
20 majority of persons who are, or (b) licensed professionals who  
21 are: United States citizens or permanent resident aliens (as  
22 defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Service) of the  
23 United States, and who are Asian, Black, Hispanic or Native  
24 American, according to the following definitions:

25 "Asian" means persons having origins in any of the original  
26 people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent,  
27 or the Pacific Islands.

28           "Black" means persons having origins in any black racial  
29 group of Africa.

30           "Hispanic" means persons of Spanish or Portuguese culture  
31 with origins in Mexico, South or Central America, or the Caribbean  
32 Islands, regardless of race.

33           "Native American" means persons having origins in any of the  
34 original people of North America, including American Indians,  
35 Eskimos and Aleuts.

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