

By: Representative Wooten

To: Banking and Financial  
Services

## HOUSE BILL NO. 560

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE; TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS FOR  
3 LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS THAT MAY BE UTILIZED BY THE ACCOUNT HOLDER  
4 FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES; TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT  
5 AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH FIDUCIARY ORGANIZATIONS TO SERVE AS  
6 INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS AND  
7 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HOLDING ACCOUNT FUNDS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
8 GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT HOLDERS  
9 MAY NOT EXCEED 185% OF THE POVERTY LEVEL AND THE ACCOUNT HOLDER'S  
10 NET WORTH MAY NOT EXCEED \$10,000.00; TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS  
11 OPENING AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT TO ENTER INTO AN  
12 AGREEMENT WITH A FIDUCIARY ORGANIZATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
13 FIDUCIARY ORGANIZATION SHALL PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR AMOUNTS  
14 CONTRIBUTED TO THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT BY THE  
15 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT HOLDER; TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF  
16 MATCHING FUNDS THAT MAY BE PROVIDED FOR AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT  
17 ACCOUNT; TO PROVIDE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT  
18 ACCOUNTS MAY BE UTILIZED; TO PROVIDE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE  
19 WITHDRAWAL OF INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT FUNDS FOR PURPOSES  
20 OTHER THAN THOSE AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ACT; TO REQUIRE FIDUCIARY  
21 ORGANIZATIONS TO MAKE QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE MISSISSIPPI  
22 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONTAINING CERTAIN INFORMATION; TO PROVIDE  
23 THAT FUNDS DEPOSITED IN AN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT, SHALL  
24 NOT BE COUNTED AS INCOME, ASSETS OR RESOURCES OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN  
25 DETERMINING FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE OR SERVICES  
26 PURSUANT TO ANY FEDERAL, FEDERALLY ASSISTED, STATE OR MUNICIPAL  
27 PROGRAM BASED ON NEED; TO AUTHORIZE A CREDIT AGAINST STATE INCOME  
28 TAX LIABILITY FOR TAXPAYERS WHO CONTRIBUTE MATCHING FUNDS TO A  
29 FIDUCIARY ORGANIZATION; TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF SUCH CREDIT; TO  
30 AMEND SECTION 27-7-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXCLUDE FROM  
31 GROSS INCOME INTEREST OR DIVIDEND EARNED ON AN INDIVIDUAL  
32 DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT AND ANY MONEY WITHDRAWN FROM AN INDIVIDUAL  
33 DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT THAT IS USED FOR A QUALIFIED PURPOSE; AND FOR  
34 RELATED PURPOSES.



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

36 **SECTION 1.** Sections 1 through 16 of this act shall be known  
37 and may be cited as the "Family Empowerment Initiative."

38 **SECTION 2.** The purpose of this act is to provide for the  
39 establishment of individual development accounts and to authorize  
40 the Mississippi Development Authority to contract with fiduciary  
41 organizations to serve as intermediaries between individual  
42 development account holders and financial institutions holding  
43 account funds. The accounts are designed to:

44 (a) Provide low-wealth, unbanked and underbanked  
45 Mississippians an opportunity to gain economic stability to become  
46 self-sufficient and less reliant on public assistance;

47 (b) Encourage and mobilize savings;

48 (c) Assist in purchasing a home or paying the cost of  
49 major repairs to an existing home, starting or expanding a  
50 business, paying the cost of postsecondary education, paying the  
51 cost-assistive technology for people with disabilities, and paying  
52 the cost of an automobile purchase; and

53 (d) Strengthen families and build sustainable  
54 communities within Mississippi.

55 **SECTION 3.** The Legislature hereby finds that:

56 (a) Of the top one hundred (100) most unbanked places  
57 (city/town/census designated place with more than two hundred  
58 fifty (250) households), Mississippi is ranked number seventeen  
59 (17). Jackson, Mississippi, is ranked number four (4) in the Top



60 Ten Unbanked Mid-Sized Cities. Because many hard-working  
61 Mississippians face insurmountable obstacles to accessing the  
62 financial mainstream, they often turn to alternative, high-fee  
63 providers thereby forcing them into a cycle of debt. By using  
64 such means, individuals are hard-pressed to build savings and  
65 assets.

66 (b) Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) have been  
67 used as a federal and state policy strategy for family economic  
68 security. Federal and state policies to fund IDAs have helped  
69 create accounts for numerous individuals and families across the  
70 country.

71 (c) IDAs, just like a bank or credit union account, can  
72 be the first step in saving, planning for the future, building  
73 credit and climbing the economic ladder. It assists individuals  
74 and families with modest means to save toward the purchase of a  
75 lifelong asset, such as a home or education.

76 (d) The U.S. Census Bureau highlights just one aspect  
77 of household finances, namely the percentage of people with  
78 insufficient income to cover their day-to-day expenses. It does  
79 not count the number of families who have insufficient resources  
80 (money in the bank or assets such as a home or a car, to meet  
81 emergencies or longer-term needs). When these longer-term needs  
82 are factored in, substantially more people in the United States  
83 today face a future of limited hope for long-term financial  
84 security. At a time of widening income disparities, these data



85 paint a stark picture of diminishing financial security for  
86 millions of families. It is clear that the recession and its  
87 aftermath have left unprecedented numbers of families barely able  
88 to make ends meet.

89 **SECTION 4.** As used in Sections 1 through 16 of this act:

90 (a) "Administrative costs" includes, but is not limited  
91 to, soliciting matching funds, processing fees charged by the  
92 fiduciary organization or financial institution, and traditional  
93 overhead costs. Administrative costs shall be limited to no more  
94 than fifteen percent (15%) of the contract.

95 (b) "Eligible educational institution" means the  
96 following:

97 (i) An institution described in 20 USC Section  
98 1088(a)(1) or 1141(a), as such sections are in effect on July 1,  
99 2018;

100 (ii) An area vocational education school, as  
101 defined in 20 USC Section 2471(4), subparagraph (C) or (D), as  
102 such section is in effect on July 1, 2018; and

103 (iii) Any other accredited education or training  
104 organization.

105 (c) "Emergency" means payments for necessary medical  
106 expenses of the account owner or family member, expenses to avoid  
107 the eviction of the account owner from the account owner's primary  
108 residence and for necessary living expenses following a loss of  
109 income.



110 (d) "Federal poverty level" means the poverty income  
111 guidelines published for a calendar year by the United States  
112 Department of Human Services.

113 (e) "Fiduciary organization" means any nonprofit,  
114 fund-raising organization that is exempt from taxation under  
115 Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, any  
116 certified community development financial institution or any  
117 credit union chartered under federal or state law.

118 (f) "Financial institution" means a federally insured  
119 bank, trust company, savings bank, building and loan association,  
120 savings and loan company or association, or credit union  
121 authorized to do business in this state.

122 (g) "First-time homebuyer" means a person who has not  
123 been named on a legally recorded homeownership title for a minimum  
124 of thirty-six (36) months.

125 (h) "Individual Development Account" or "IDA" means an  
126 account established for an eligible individual or family member as  
127 part of a qualified individual development account program with  
128 the following requirements:

129 (i) The sole owner of the account is the  
130 individual or family member for whom the account was created;

131 (ii) The holder of the account is a qualified  
132 financial institution;



133 (iii) The assets of the account may not be  
134 commingled with other property except in a common trust fund or  
135 common investment fund; and

136 (iv) Any amount in the account shall be paid out  
137 only for the qualified purposes of the account owner, except if it  
138 meets the qualifications of an emergency use.

139 (i) "MDA" means the Mississippi Development Authority.

140 (j) "Parallel account" means a separate parallel  
141 account for all matching funds and earnings dedicated to  
142 individual development account owners, the sole holder of which is  
143 a qualified financial institution, or a qualified fiduciary  
144 organization.

145 (k) "Postsecondary educational expenses" means:

146 (i) Tuition and fees required for the enrollment  
147 or attendance of an IDA account holder or an immediate family  
148 member of the account holder who is a student at an eligible  
149 educational institution; and

150 (ii) Fees, books, supplies and equipment  
151 (including computer, software, etc.) required for courses of  
152 instruction for an IDA account holder or an immediate family  
153 member of the account holder who is a student at an eligible  
154 educational institution.

155 (l) "Operating costs" includes, but is not limited to,  
156 costs of training IDA participants in economic and financial  
157 literacy and IDA uses, marketing participation, counseling



158 participants and conducting required verification and compliance  
159 activities.

160 (m) "Qualified purposes" means any of the purposes for  
161 which the account owner's accumulated savings and matching funds  
162 may be used as described in Section 7 of this act.

163 **SECTION 5.** (1) An individual who is a resident of this  
164 state may submit an application to open an individual development  
165 account to a fiduciary organization approved by the Mississippi  
166 Development Authority. The fiduciary organization shall approve  
167 the application only if:

168 (a) The individual has gross household income from all  
169 sources for the calendar year preceding the year in which the  
170 application is made which does not exceed one hundred eighty-five  
171 percent (185%) of the federal poverty level; and

172 (b) Individual household net worth at the time the IDA  
173 account is opened does not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars  
174 (\$10,000.00) disregarding the primary dwelling and one (1) motor  
175 vehicle owned by the household.

176 (2) An individual opening an IDA shall be required to enter  
177 into an IDA agreement with the fiduciary organization.

178 (3) The IDA agreement shall provide for the amount of the  
179 savings deposits, the match fund rate, the asset goal, the  
180 financial literacy classes to be completed, any additional  
181 training specific to the asset, the financial counseling the  
182 individual will attend and any other services designed to increase



183 the independence of the person through the achievement of the  
184 account's approved purpose.

185 (4) Before becoming eligible to receive matching funds to  
186 pay for qualified purposes, individual development account owners  
187 shall complete a financial literacy education course offered by a  
188 qualified financial institution, a qualified fiduciary  
189 organization, or a governmental entity in accordance with federal  
190 guidelines.

191 (5) The fiduciary organization shall be responsible for  
192 coordinating arrangements between the individual and a financial  
193 institution to open the individual's IDA.

194 (6) Each fiduciary organization shall provide written  
195 notification to each of its eligible IDA account holders of the  
196 amount of matching funds provided by the fiduciary to which each  
197 such IDA account holder is entitled. Such notification shall be  
198 made at such intervals as the fiduciary organization deems  
199 appropriate, but shall be required to be made at least once each  
200 calendar year. The amount of the matching funds for each IDA  
201 account holder shall be Three Dollars (\$3.00) for each One Dollar  
202 (\$1.00) contributed to the IDA by the IDA account holder during  
203 the preceding calendar year. The amount of such matching funds  
204 shall not exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) per IDA account  
205 holder or Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per household.

206 (7) In order to receive matching funds, the account owner  
207 must:





208           (a) Have saved for a minimum of six (6) months;  
209           (b) Have reached his or her savings goal; and  
210           (c) Have completed a financial literacy education  
211 course offered by a qualified financial institution, a qualified  
212 fiduciary organization, or a governmental entity in accordance  
213 with federal guidelines.

214           (8) Once requirements in Section 7 of this act have been  
215 fulfilled, the appropriate matching funds shall be transferred  
216 from the parallel account directly to the vendor or service  
217 provider of the approved asset.

218           (9) If the amount of matching funds available is  
219 insufficient to disburse the maximum amounts specified in this  
220 section, amounts of disbursements shall be reduced proportionately  
221 based upon available funds.

222           **SECTION 6.** (1) Deposits to individual development accounts  
223 made by the account owner shall come from earned income,  
224 including, but not limited to, wages, earned income tax credit  
225 returns, child support payments, supplemental security income  
226 (SSI), disability benefits, community service under Temporary  
227 Assistance For Needy Families (TANF), AmeriCorps stipends, VISTA  
228 stipends, and job training programs. Matching funds shall only be  
229 used for qualified purposes.

230           (2) Eligible individuals shall certify that their deposits  
231 do not exceed their income. The maximum amount of deposits made



232 by an account owner may not exceed Two Thousand Dollars  
233 (\$2,000.00).

234 (3) If an IDA account holder has gross household income from  
235 all sources for a calendar year which exceeds one hundred  
236 eighty-five percent (185%) of the federal poverty level, the IDA  
237 account holder shall not be eligible to receive funds pursuant to  
238 the provisions of Sections 1 through 16 of this act in the  
239 following year.

240 (4) In the event of an IDA account holder's death, the  
241 account may be transferred to the ownership of a contingent  
242 beneficiary or beneficiaries. An account holder shall name a  
243 contingent beneficiary or beneficiaries at the time the account is  
244 established and may change such beneficiary or beneficiaries at  
245 any time. If the named beneficiary or beneficiaries are deceased  
246 or cannot otherwise accept the transfer, the monies shall be  
247 transferred to the fiduciary organization to redistribute as  
248 matching funds.

249 **SECTION 7.** (1) Individual development accounts shall be  
250 used for any of the following qualified purposes:

251 (a) Paying the expenses of securing postsecondary  
252 education, including, but not limited to, community college  
253 courses, courses at a four-year college or university or  
254 post-college graduate courses for the account owner or any member  
255 of the account owner's family that are paid directly to an  
256 eligible educational institution;



257           (b) Paying the expenses of securing of postsecondary  
258 occupational training, including, but not limited to, vocational  
259 or trade school training for the account owner or any training  
260 authorized under the Workforce Investment Act through the  
261 Mississippi Department of Employment Security; however, such  
262 payments must be made directly to the provider of such training;

263           (c) Payments for a principal residence for an account  
264 owner who is a first-time homebuyer, or the costs of major repairs  
265 or improvements to the principal residence of an account holder;  
266 however, such payments must be paid directly to the persons to  
267 whom the amounts are due;

268           (d) Amounts paid directly to a business capitalization  
269 account which is established in a federally insured financial  
270 institution and is restricted to use solely for qualified business  
271 capitalization expenses;

272           (e) Payments for the purchase of an automobile  
273 necessary to transport the account owner or a family member to a  
274 place of employment or education, or payments for costs of repair  
275 of such an automobile; however, payments must be paid directly to  
276 a licensed automobile dealer or repair shop and this purpose  
277 cannot be the sole purpose of the IDA;

278           (f) Purchase assistive technology for people with  
279 disabilities, including, but not limited to, screen readers for  
280 computers, assistive listening devices, accessible hand control



281 for automobiles and motorized wheelchairs; however, payments must  
282 be paid directly to the assistive technology provider;

283 (g) Qualified emergency withdrawals as provided in  
284 subsection (2) of this section; and

285 (h) Any other activity based on a plan approved by the  
286 MDA.

287 (2) If an emergency occurs, an account owner may withdraw  
288 all or part of the account owner's deposits to an individual  
289 development account with the approval of the fiduciary  
290 organization. The account owner shall reimburse his or her  
291 individual development account for the amount withdrawn under this  
292 section within twelve (12) months after the date of the  
293 withdrawal. Failure of the account owner to make a timely  
294 reimbursement to the account will remove the account owner from  
295 the program. Until the reimbursement has been made in full, an  
296 account owner may not withdraw any matching funds or accrued  
297 interest on matching funds from the account.

298 (3) If an account owner withdraws money from an individual  
299 development account for any purpose other than a qualified  
300 purpose, the fiduciary organization shall remove the account owner  
301 from the program.

302 **SECTION 8.** (1) If the fiduciary organization receives  
303 evidence that any money withdrawn from an IDA account is withdrawn  
304 under false pretenses or is used for purposes other than for the  
305 approved purposes indicated at the time of the withdrawal, the



306 fiduciary organization shall make arrangements with the financial  
307 institution to impose a penalty for the loss of matching funds and  
308 may, at its discretion, close the account. All penalties  
309 collected by fiduciary organizations shall remain with the  
310 fiduciary organization to distribute as matching funds to other  
311 eligible individuals.

312 (2) The fiduciary organization shall establish a grievance  
313 committee and a procedure to hear, review and decide in writing  
314 any grievance made by an IDA account holder who disputes a  
315 decision of the fiduciary organization that a withdrawal is  
316 subject to penalty.

317 (3) Each fiduciary organization shall establish such  
318 procedures as are necessary, including prohibiting eligibility for  
319 further matching funds, to ensure compliance with this section.

320 **SECTION 9.** An organization based in this state which desires  
321 to enter into such a contract shall submit a proposal to the MDA  
322 for the right to be approved as a fiduciary organization. The MDA  
323 shall select fiduciary organizations through competitive  
324 processes. Proposals of organizations shall be evaluated and  
325 contracts awarded by the MDA on the basis of such items as  
326 geographic diversity and an organization's:

327 (a) Ability to implement and administer the individual  
328 development account program, including the ability to verify  
329 account owner eligibility, certify that matching funds are used



330 only for qualified purposes, and exercise general fiscal  
331 accountability;

332 (b) Capacity to provide or raise matching funds for the  
333 deposits of account owners;

334 (c) Ability to provide safe and secure investments for  
335 individual accounts;

336 (d) Overall administrative capacity, including, but not  
337 limited to, the certifications or verifications required to assure  
338 compliance with eligibility requirements, authorized uses of the  
339 accounts, matching contributions by individuals or businesses and  
340 penalties for unauthorized distributions;

341 (e) Capacity to provide, or to arrange for the  
342 provisions of, financial counseling, financial literacy education  
343 and training specific to the assets the account owners will be  
344 purchasing, and other related services to account owners;

345 (f) Connection to other activities and programs  
346 designed to increase the independence of this state's low-income  
347 households and individuals through education and training,  
348 homeownership, small business capitalization, and other  
349 asset-building programs;

350 (g) Program design, including match rates and savings  
351 goals, to lead to asset purchase; and

352 (h) Operating costs.

353 **SECTION 10.** (1) For each contract entered into pursuant to  
354 the provisions of this section, the contract shall begin no later



355 than October 1 of each year. The fiduciary organization shall use  
356 not less than seventy percent (70%) for matching funds. The  
357 fiduciary organization shall use not more than fifteen percent  
358 (15%) for operating cost and not more than fifteen percent (15%)  
359 for administrative costs.

360 (2) Responsibilities of a fiduciary organization shall  
361 include, but not be limited to, marketing participation,  
362 soliciting matching contributions, counseling project  
363 participants, conducting basic economic and financial literacy  
364 training and IDA use training for project participants and  
365 conducting required verification and compliance activities.  
366 Neither a fiduciary organization nor an employee of, or person  
367 associated with, a fiduciary organization, shall receive anything  
368 of value, other than compensation for services, for any act  
369 performed in connection with the establishment of an IDA or in  
370 furtherance of the provisions of Sections 1 through 16 of this  
371 act.

372 (3) Subject to rules promulgated by the MDA, a fiduciary  
373 organization has sole authority over, and responsibility for, the  
374 administration of individual development accounts. The  
375 responsibility of the fiduciary organization extends to all  
376 aspects of the account program, including marketing to all  
377 eligible individuals and families, soliciting matching funds,  
378 counseling account owners, providing financial literacy education  
379 and conducting required verification and compliance activities.



380 The fiduciary organization may establish program provisions as the  
381 organization believes necessary to ensure account owner compliance  
382 with Sections 1 through 16 of this act.

383 (4) A fiduciary organization may act in partnership with  
384 other entities, including businesses, government agencies,  
385 corporations, nonprofit organizations, community action programs,  
386 community development corporations, housing authorities and  
387 faith-based entities, to assist in the fulfillment of its  
388 responsibilities under Sections 1 through 16 of this act.

389 (5) A fiduciary organization may use a reasonable portion of  
390 money allocated by the Legislature to the individual development  
391 account program for administration, operation and research, and  
392 evaluation purposes. A fiduciary organization may not expend more  
393 than fifteen percent (15%) of allocated funds for those purposes.  
394 Research can be conducted in partnership with a university or  
395 state-funding organization.

396 (6) A fiduciary organization selected by the MDA to  
397 administer funds allocated by the MDA for family empowerment  
398 initiative purposes shall provide the MDA an annual report based  
399 on regularly collected data of the fiduciary organization's family  
400 empowerment initiative program activity. The report shall be  
401 filed not later than ninety (90) days after the end of the fiscal  
402 year. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the  
403 following:





404 (a) The number of individual development accounts  
405 administered by the fiduciary organization.

406 (b) The amount of deposits and matching funds for each  
407 account.

408 (c) The asset purchase goal of each account.

409 (d) The number of withdrawals made.

410 (e) Any other information the MDA may require for the  
411 purpose of determining whether the family empowerment initiative  
412 program is achieving the purposes for which it was established.

413 (7) Each fiduciary organization shall provide quarterly to  
414 the MDA the following information:

415 (a) The number of individuals making deposits into an  
416 IDA;

417 (b) The amounts deposited in the IDA;

418 (c) The amounts not yet allocated to IDAs;

419 (d) The amounts withdrawn from the individual  
420 development accounts and the purposes for which the amounts were  
421 withdrawn;

422 (e) The balances remaining in the IDAs;

423 (f) The service configurations (such as peer support,  
424 structured planning exercises, mentoring and case management)  
425 which increased the rate and consistency of participation in the  
426 demonstration project and how such configurations varied among  
427 different populations or communities; and



428 (g) The number of grievances filed, the resolution of  
429 the grievances, and any penalties imposed.

430 (8) The MDA shall make all reasonable and necessary rules to  
431 ensure the fiduciary organization's compliance with Sections 1  
432 through 16 of this act.

433 **SECTION 11.** The MDA shall prepare a written report annually  
434 regarding the implementation of the Family Empowerment Initiative  
435 and shall make recommendations for improving the program. The  
436 report shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the  
437 Clerk of the House of Representatives on or before August 1 of  
438 each year.

439 **SECTION 12.** Financial institutions holding individual  
440 development accounts, at a minimum, shall:

441 (a) Keep the account in the name of the account owner.

442 (b) Permit deposits to be made in the account.

443 (c) Require the account to earn a market rate of  
444 interest.

445 (d) Maintain the individual development accounts as fee  
446 free.

447 (e) Permit the account owner, after obtaining the  
448 written authorization of the fiduciary organization, to withdraw  
449 money from the account for any qualified purpose.

450 **SECTION 13.** Any individual, business, organization or other  
451 entity may contribute matching funds to a fiduciary organization.



452 The funds shall be designated to the fiduciary organization to  
453 allocate to all its participants on a proportionate basis.

454 **SECTION 14.** (1) An account owner's savings and matching  
455 funds shall not affect his or her eligibility for any means tested  
456 public benefits, including, but not limited to, Medicaid, state  
457 children's health insurance programs, Temporary Assistance to  
458 Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
459 (SNAP), supplemental security income, government subsidized foster  
460 care and adoption payments and child care or housing payments.

461 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, funds  
462 deposited in individual development accounts shall not be counted  
463 as income, assets or resources of the account owner for the  
464 purpose of determining financial eligibility for assistance or  
465 service pursuant to any federal, federally assisted, state, or  
466 municipal program based on need.

467 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section, money  
468 deposited into individual development accounts shall not be  
469 included in gross income for income tax purposes. Any amount  
470 withdrawn from a parallel account shall not be included in an  
471 eligible individual's gross income for income tax purposes.

472 (4) Monies withdrawn from an individual development account  
473 shall not be included in gross income unless it is not used for a  
474 qualified purpose.

475 **SECTION 15.** The MDA shall not be obligated to fund  
476 individual development parallel accounts or be obligated to enter



477 into contracts with fiduciary organizations unless the Legislature  
478 appropriates funding for the establishment of a family empowerment  
479 initiative program, nor shall the MDA be obligated to spend funds  
480 on a family empowerment initiative program above the amount  
481 appropriated by the Legislature for the program.

482       **SECTION 16.** (1) There shall be allowed a credit against the  
483 income tax liability imposed by Chapter 7, Title 27, Mississippi  
484 Code of 1972, to a taxpayer who contributes to a fiduciary  
485 organization created under Sections 1 through 16 of this act in an  
486 amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the amount of matching  
487 funds contributed to a fiduciary organization during the calendar  
488 year.

489       (2) The amount of the credit that may be used by a taxpayer  
490 for a taxable year shall not exceed the lesser of Twenty-five  
491 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) or the amount of income tax  
492 otherwise due. Any unused portion of the credit may be carried  
493 forward for three (3) consecutive years from the close of the tax  
494 year in which the credit was earned.

495       (3) To claim the credit authorized by this section, a  
496 taxpayer must notify the fiduciary organization that the taxpayer  
497 intends to make a contribution and the amount of the contribution.  
498 The fiduciary organization shall then notify the Department of  
499 Revenue and request a certification from the department certifying  
500 the amount of the tax credit to which the taxpayer is entitled if  
501 the contribution is made. The fiduciary organization shall



502 deliver the certification to the taxpayer upon receipt of the  
503 contribution.

504 (4) A taxpayer shall file the certificate with the  
505 taxpayer's income tax return for the first year in which the  
506 taxpayer claims the tax credit authorized by this section.

507 (5) The total amount of tax credits certified under this  
508 section shall not exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars  
509 (\$100,000.00) per calendar year.

510 (6) The Department of Revenue shall promulgate any  
511 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

512 **SECTION 17.** Section 27-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
513 amended as follows:

514 27-7-15. (1) For the purposes of this article, except as  
515 otherwise provided, the term "gross income" means and includes the  
516 income of a taxpayer derived from salaries, wages, fees or  
517 compensation for service, of whatever kind and in whatever form  
518 paid, including income from governmental agencies and subdivisions  
519 thereof; or from professions, vocations, trades, businesses,  
520 commerce or sales, or renting or dealing in property, or  
521 reacquired property; also from annuities, interest, rents,  
522 dividends, securities, insurance premiums, reinsurance premiums,  
523 considerations for supplemental insurance contracts, or the  
524 transaction of any business carried on for gain or profit, or  
525 gains, or profits, and income derived from any source whatever and  
526 in whatever form paid. The amount of all such items of income



527 shall be included in the gross income for the taxable year in  
528 which received by the taxpayer. The amount by which an eligible  
529 employee's salary is reduced pursuant to a salary reduction  
530 agreement authorized under Section 25-17-5 shall be excluded from  
531 the term "gross income" within the meaning of this article.

532 (2) In determining gross income for the purpose of this  
533 section, the following, under regulations prescribed by the  
534 commissioner, shall be applicable:

535 (a) **Dealers in property.** Federal rules, regulations  
536 and revenue procedures shall be followed with respect to  
537 installment sales unless a transaction results in the shifting of  
538 income from inside the state to outside the state.

539 (b) **Casual sales of property.**

540 (i) Prior to January 1, 2001, federal rules,  
541 regulations and revenue procedures shall be followed with respect  
542 to installment sales except they shall be applied and administered  
543 as if H.R. 3594, the Installment Tax Correction Act of 2000 of the  
544 106th Congress, had not been enacted. This provision will  
545 generally affect taxpayers, reporting on the accrual method of  
546 accounting, entering into installment note agreements on or after  
547 December 17, 1999. Any gain or profit resulting from the casual  
548 sale of property will be recognized in the year of sale.

549 (ii) From and after January 1, 2001, federal  
550 rules, regulations and revenue procedures shall be followed with  
551 respect to installment sales except as provided in this



552 subparagraph (ii). Gain or profit from the casual sale of  
553 property shall be recognized in the year of sale. When a taxpayer  
554 recognizes gain on the casual sale of property in which the gain  
555 is deferred for federal income tax purposes, a taxpayer may elect  
556 to defer the payment of tax resulting from the gain as allowed and  
557 to the extent provided under regulations prescribed by the  
558 commissioner. If the payment of the tax is made on a deferred  
559 basis, the tax shall be computed based on the applicable rate for  
560 the income reported in the year the payment is made. Except as  
561 otherwise provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph (b),  
562 deferring the payment of the tax shall not affect the liability  
563 for the tax. If at any time the installment note is sold,  
564 contributed, transferred or disposed of in any manner and for any  
565 purpose by the original note holder, or the original note holder  
566 is merged, liquidated, dissolved or withdrawn from this state,  
567 then all deferred tax payments under this section shall  
568 immediately become due and payable.

569 (iii) If the selling price of the property is  
570 reduced by any alteration in the terms of an installment note,  
571 including default by the purchaser, the gain to be recognized is  
572 recomputed based on the adjusted selling price in the same manner  
573 as for federal income tax purposes. The tax on this amount, less  
574 the previously paid tax on the recognized gain, is payable over  
575 the period of the remaining installments. If the tax on the  
576 previously recognized gain has been paid in full to this state,



577 the return on which the payment was made may be amended for this  
578 purpose only. The statute of limitations in Section 27-7-49 shall  
579 not bar an amended return for this purpose.

580 (c) **Reserves of insurance companies.** In the case of  
581 insurance companies, any amounts in excess of the legally required  
582 reserves shall be included as gross income.

583 (d) **Affiliated companies or persons.** As regards sales,  
584 exchanges or payments for services from one to another of  
585 affiliated companies or persons or under other circumstances where  
586 the relation between the buyer and seller is such that gross  
587 proceeds from the sale or the value of the exchange or the payment  
588 for services are not indicative of the true value of the subject  
589 matter of the sale, exchange or payment for services, the  
590 commissioner shall prescribe uniform and equitable rules for  
591 determining the true value of the gross income, gross sales,  
592 exchanges or payment for services, or require consolidated returns  
593 of affiliates.

594 (e) **Alimony and separate maintenance payments.** The  
595 federal rules, regulations and revenue procedures in determining  
596 the deductibility and taxability of alimony payments shall be  
597 followed in this state.

598 (f) **Reimbursement for expenses of moving.** There shall  
599 be included in gross income (as compensation for services) any  
600 amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, by an  
601 individual as a payment for or reimbursement of expenses of moving





602 from one (1) residence to another residence which is attributable  
603 to employment or self-employment.

604 (3) In the case of taxpayers other than residents, gross  
605 income includes gross income from sources within this state.

606 (4) The words "gross income" do not include the following  
607 items of income which shall be exempt from taxation under this  
608 article:

609 (a) The proceeds of life insurance policies and  
610 contracts paid upon the death of the insured. However, the income  
611 from the proceeds of such policies or contracts shall be included  
612 in the gross income.

613 (b) The amount received by the insured as a return of  
614 premium or premiums paid by him under life insurance policies,  
615 endowment, or annuity contracts, either during the term or at  
616 maturity or upon surrender of the contract.

617 (c) The value of property acquired by gift, bequest,  
618 devise or descent, but the income from such property shall be  
619 included in the gross income.

620 (d) Interest upon the obligations of the United States  
621 or its possessions, or securities issued under the provisions of  
622 the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, or bonds issued by the War  
623 Finance Corporation, or obligations of the State of Mississippi or  
624 political subdivisions thereof.

625 (e) The amounts received through accident or health  
626 insurance as compensation for personal injuries or sickness, plus



627 the amount of any damages received for such injuries or such  
628 sickness or injuries, or through the War Risk Insurance Act, or  
629 any law for the benefit or relief of injured or disabled members  
630 of the military or naval forces of the United States.

631 (f) Income received by any religious denomination or by  
632 any institution or trust for moral or mental improvements,  
633 religious, Bible, tract, charitable, benevolent, fraternal,  
634 missionary, hospital, infirmary, educational, scientific,  
635 literary, library, patriotic, historical or cemetery purposes or  
636 for two (2) or more of such purposes, if such income be used  
637 exclusively for carrying out one or more of such purposes.

638 (g) Income received by a domestic corporation which is  
639 "taxable in another state" as this term is defined in this  
640 article, derived from business activity conducted outside this  
641 state. Domestic corporations taxable both within and without the  
642 state shall determine Mississippi income on the same basis as  
643 provided for foreign corporations under the provisions of this  
644 article.

645 (h) In case of insurance companies, there shall be  
646 excluded from gross income such portion of actual premiums  
647 received from an individual policyholder as is paid back or  
648 credited to or treated as an abatement of premiums of such  
649 policyholder within the taxable year.

650 (i) Income from dividends that has already borne a tax  
651 as dividend income under the provisions of this article, when such



652 dividends may be specifically identified in the possession of the  
653 recipient.

654 (j) Amounts paid by the United States to a person as  
655 added compensation for hazardous duty pay as a member of the Armed  
656 Forces of the United States in a combat zone designated by  
657 Executive Order of the President of the United States.

658 (k) Amounts received as retirement allowances,  
659 pensions, annuities or optional retirement allowances paid under  
660 the federal Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, the  
661 Federal Civil Service Retirement Act, or any other retirement  
662 system of the United States government, retirement allowances paid  
663 under the Mississippi Public Employees' Retirement System,  
664 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System or any other  
665 retirement system of the State of Mississippi or any political  
666 subdivision thereof. The exemption allowed under this paragraph  
667 (k) shall be available to the spouse or other beneficiary at the  
668 death of the primary retiree.

669 (l) Amounts received as retirement allowances,  
670 pensions, annuities or optional retirement allowances paid by any  
671 public or governmental retirement system not designated in  
672 paragraph (k) or any private retirement system or plan of which  
673 the recipient was a member at any time during the period of his  
674 employment. Amounts received as a distribution under a Roth  
675 Individual Retirement Account shall be treated in the same manner  
676 as provided under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.



677 The exemption allowed under this paragraph (l) shall be available  
678 to the spouse or other beneficiary at the death of the primary  
679 retiree.

680 (m) National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United  
681 States compensation not to exceed the aggregate sum of Five  
682 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for any taxable year through the 2005  
683 taxable year, and not to exceed the aggregate sum of Fifteen  
684 Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for any taxable year thereafter.

685 (n) Compensation received for active service as a  
686 member below the grade of commissioned officer and so much of the  
687 compensation as does not exceed the maximum enlisted amount  
688 received for active service as a commissioned officer in the Armed  
689 Forces of the United States for any month during any part of which  
690 such members of the Armed Forces (i) served in a combat zone as  
691 designated by Executive Order of the President of the United  
692 States or a qualified hazardous duty area as defined by federal  
693 law, or both; or (ii) was hospitalized as a result of wounds,  
694 disease or injury incurred while serving in such combat zone. For  
695 the purposes of this paragraph (n), the term "maximum enlisted  
696 amount" means and has the same definition as that term has in 26  
697 USCS 112.

698 (o) The proceeds received from federal and state  
699 forestry incentive programs.

700 (p) The amount representing the difference between the  
701 increase of gross income derived from sales for export outside the



702 United States as compared to the preceding tax year wherein gross  
703 income from export sales was highest, and the net increase in  
704 expenses attributable to such increased exports. In the absence  
705 of direct accounting, the ratio of net profits to total sales may  
706 be applied to the increase in export sales. This paragraph (p)  
707 shall only apply to businesses located in this state engaging in  
708 the international export of Mississippi goods and services. Such  
709 goods or services shall have at least fifty percent (50%) of value  
710 added at a location in Mississippi.

711 (q) Amounts paid by the federal government for the  
712 construction of soil conservation systems as required by a  
713 conservation plan adopted pursuant to 16 USCS 3801 et seq.

714 (r) The amount deposited in a medical savings account,  
715 and any interest accrued thereon, that is a part of a medical  
716 savings account program as specified in the Medical Savings  
717 Account Act under Sections 71-9-1 through 71-9-9; provided,  
718 however, that any amount withdrawn from such account for purposes  
719 other than paying eligible medical expense or to procure health  
720 coverage shall be included in gross income.

721 (s) Amounts paid by the Mississippi Soil and Water  
722 Conservation Commission from the Mississippi Soil and Water  
723 Cost-Share Program for the installation of water quality best  
724 management practices.



725           (t) Dividends received by a holding corporation, as  
726 defined in Section 27-13-1, from a subsidiary corporation, as  
727 defined in Section 27-13-1.

728           (u) Interest, dividends, gains or income of any kind on  
729 any account in the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Trust  
730 Fund, as established in Sections 37-155-101 through 37-155-125, to  
731 the extent that such amounts remain on deposit in the MACS Trust  
732 Fund or are withdrawn pursuant to a qualified withdrawal, as  
733 defined in Section 37-155-105.

734           (v) Interest, dividends or gains accruing on the  
735 payments made pursuant to a prepaid tuition contract, as provided  
736 for in Section 37-155-17.

737           (w) Income resulting from transactions with a related  
738 member where the related member subject to tax under this chapter  
739 was required to, and did in fact, add back the expense of such  
740 transactions as required by Section 27-7-17(2). Under no  
741 circumstances may the exclusion from income exceed the deduction  
742 add-back of the related member, nor shall the exclusion apply to  
743 any income otherwise excluded under this chapter.

744           (x) Amounts that are subject to the tax levied pursuant  
745 to Section 27-7-901, and are paid to patrons by gaming  
746 establishments licensed under the Mississippi Gaming Control Act.

747           (y) Amounts that are subject to the tax levied pursuant  
748 to Section 27-7-903, and are paid to patrons by gaming



749 establishments not licensed under the Mississippi Gaming Control  
750 Act.

751           (z) Interest, dividends, gains or income of any kind on  
752 any account in a qualified tuition program and amounts received as  
753 distributions under a qualified tuition program shall be treated  
754 in the same manner as provided under the United States Internal  
755 Revenue Code, as amended. For the purposes of this paragraph (z),  
756 the term "qualified tuition program" means and has the same  
757 definition as that term has in 26 USCS 529.

758           (aa) The amount deposited in a health savings account,  
759 and any interest accrued thereon, that is a part of a health  
760 savings account program as specified in the Health Savings  
761 Accounts Act created in Sections 83-62-1 through 83-62-9; however,  
762 any amount withdrawn from such account for purposes other than  
763 paying qualified medical expenses or to procure health coverage  
764 shall be included in gross income, except as otherwise provided by  
765 Sections 83-62-7 and 83-62-9.

766           (bb) Amounts received as qualified disaster relief  
767 payments shall be treated in the same manner as provided under the  
768 United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

769           (cc) Amounts received as a "qualified Hurricane Katrina  
770 distribution" as defined in the United States Internal Revenue  
771 Code, as amended.



772 (dd) Amounts received by an individual which may be  
773 excluded from income as foreign earned income for federal income  
774 tax purposes.

775 (ee) Amounts received by a qualified individual,  
776 directly or indirectly, from an employer or nonprofit housing  
777 organization that are qualified housing expenses associated with  
778 an employer-assisted housing program. For purposes of this  
779 paragraph (ee):

780 (i) "Qualified individual" means any individual  
781 whose household income does not exceed one hundred twenty percent  
782 (120%) of the area median gross income (as defined by the United  
783 States Department of Housing and Urban Development), adjusted for  
784 household size, for the area in which the housing is located.

785 (ii) "Nonprofit housing organization" means an  
786 organization that is organized as a not-for-profit organization  
787 under the laws of this state or another state and has as one of  
788 its purposes:

789 1. Homeownership education or counseling;  
790 2. The development of affordable housing; or  
791 3. The development or administration of  
792 employer-assisted housing programs.

793 (iii) "Employer-assisted housing program" means a  
794 separate written plan of any employer (including, without  
795 limitation, tax-exempt organizations and public employers) for the  
796 exclusive benefit of the employer's employees to pay qualified





797 housing expenses to assist the employer's employees in securing  
798 affordable housing.

799 (iv) "Qualified housing expenses" means:

800 1. With respect to rental assistance, an  
801 amount not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) paid for the  
802 purpose of assisting employees with security deposits and rental  
803 subsidies; and

804 2. With respect to homeownership assistance,  
805 an amount not to exceed the lesser of Ten Thousand Dollars  
806 (\$10,000.00) or six percent (6%) of the purchase price of the  
807 employee's principal residence that is paid for the purpose of  
808 assisting employees with down payments, payment of closing costs,  
809 reduced interest mortgages, mortgage guarantee programs, mortgage  
810 forgiveness programs, equity contribution programs, or  
811 contributions to homebuyer education and/or homeownership  
812 counseling of eligible employees.

813 (ff) For the 2010 taxable year and any taxable year  
814 thereafter, amounts converted in accordance with the United States  
815 Internal Revenue Code, as amended, from a traditional Individual  
816 Retirement Account to a Roth Individual Retirement Account. The  
817 exemption allowed under this paragraph (ff) shall be available to  
818 the spouse or other beneficiary at the death of the primary  
819 retiree.

820 (gg) Amounts received for the performance of disaster  
821 or emergency-related work as defined in Section 27-113-5.



822           (hh) The amount deposited in a catastrophe savings  
823 account established under Sections 27-7-1001 through 27-7-1007,  
824 interest income earned on the catastrophe savings account, and  
825 distributions from the catastrophe savings account; however, any  
826 amount withdrawn from a catastrophe savings account for purposes  
827 other than paying qualified catastrophe expenses shall be included  
828 in gross income, except as otherwise provided by Sections  
829 27-7-1001 through 27-7-1007.

830           (ii) Interest, dividends, gains or income of any kind  
831 on any account in the Mississippi Achieving a Better Life  
832 Experience (ABLE) Trust Fund, as established in Chapter 28, Title  
833 43, to the extent that such amounts remain on deposit in the ABLE  
834 Trust Fund or are withdrawn pursuant to a qualified withdrawal, as  
835 defined in Section 43-28-11.

836           (jj) Subject to the limitations provided under Section  
837 27-7-1103, amounts deposited into a first-time homebuyer savings  
838 account and any interest or other income earned attributable to an  
839 account and monies or funds withdrawn or distributed from an  
840 account for the payment of eligible costs by or on behalf of a  
841 qualified beneficiary; however, any monies or funds withdrawn or  
842 distributed from a first-time homebuyer savings account for any  
843 purpose other than the payment of eligible costs by or on behalf  
844 of a qualified beneficiary shall be included in gross income. For  
845 the purpose of this paragraph (jj), the terms "first-time  
846 homebuyer savings account," "eligible costs" and "qualified



847 beneficiary" mean and have the same definitions as such terms have  
848 in Section 27-7-1101.

849 (kk) Interest or dividends earned on an individual  
850 development account established under Sections 1 through 16 of  
851 this act and any monies withdrawn from an individual development  
852 account and used for a qualified purpose as defined in Section 4  
853 of this act.

854 (5) Prisoners of war, missing in action-taxable status.

855 (a) **Members of the Armed Forces.** Gross income does not  
856 include compensation received for active service as a member of  
857 the Armed Forces of the United States for any month during any  
858 part of which such member is in a missing status, as defined in  
859 paragraph (d) of this subsection, during the Vietnam Conflict as a  
860 result of such conflict.

861 (b) **Civilian employees.** Gross income does not include  
862 compensation received for active service as an employee for any  
863 month during any part of which such employee is in a missing  
864 status during the Vietnam Conflict as a result of such conflict.

865 (c) **Period of conflict.** For the purpose of this  
866 subsection, the Vietnam Conflict began February 28, 1961, and ends  
867 on the date designated by the President by Executive Order as the  
868 date of the termination of combatant activities in Vietnam. For  
869 the purpose of this subsection, an individual is in a missing  
870 status as a result of the Vietnam Conflict if immediately before  
871 such status began he was performing service in Vietnam or was



872 performing service in Southeast Asia in direct support of military  
873 operations in Vietnam. "Southeast Asia," as used in this  
874 paragraph, is defined to include Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and  
875 waters adjacent thereto.

876 (d) "Missing status" means the status of an employee or  
877 member of the Armed Forces who is in active service and is  
878 officially carried or determined to be absent in a status of (i)  
879 missing; (ii) missing in action; (iii) interned in a foreign  
880 country; (iv) captured, beleaguered or besieged by a hostile  
881 force; or (v) detained in a foreign country against his will; but  
882 does not include the status of an employee or member of the Armed  
883 Forces for a period during which he is officially determined to be  
884 absent from his post of duty without authority.

885 (e) "Active service" means active federal service by an  
886 employee or member of the Armed Forces of the United States in an  
887 active duty status.

888 (f) "Employee" means one who is a citizen or national  
889 of the United States or an alien admitted to the United States for  
890 permanent residence and is a resident of the State of Mississippi  
891 and is employed in or under a federal executive agency or  
892 department of the Armed Forces.

893 (g) "Compensation" means (i) basic pay; (ii) special  
894 pay; (iii) incentive pay; (iv) basic allowance for quarters; (v)  
895 basic allowance for subsistence; and (vi) station per diem  
896 allowances for not more than ninety (90) days.



897           (h) If refund or credit of any overpayment of tax for  
898 any taxable year resulting from the application of this subsection  
899 (5) is prevented by the operation of any law or rule of law, such  
900 refund or credit of such overpayment of tax may, nevertheless, be  
901 made or allowed if claim therefor is filed with the Department of  
902 Revenue within three (3) years after the date of the enactment of  
903 this subsection.

904           (i) The provisions of this subsection shall be  
905 effective for taxable years ending on or after February 28, 1961.

906           (6) A shareholder of an S corporation, as defined in Section  
907 27-8-3(1)(g), shall take into account the income, loss, deduction  
908 or credit of the S corporation only to the extent provided in  
909 Section 27-8-7(2).

910           **SECTION 18.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
911 and after July 1, 2018.

