

By: Representatives Turner, Brown

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1096

1 AN ACT TO ABOLISH CERTAIN INACTIVE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS,
2 COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-31-209, MISSISSIPPI
3 CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES AN ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE
4 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION; TO REPEAL
5 SECTION 39-31-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE
6 MISSISSIPPI BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMISSION; TO REPEAL SECTION
7 27-7-107, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ALLOWS TAXPAYERS TO
8 DESIGNATE A PORTION OF THEIR TAX REFUND FROM THE MISSISSIPPI
9 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO BE CONTRIBUTED TO THE MISSISSIPPI
10 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FUND; TO AMEND SECTIONS 27-19-56.344 AND
11 27-19-56.437, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE
12 PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 49-19-401, 49-19-403,
13 49-19-405 AND 49-19-408, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISH
14 THE MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTE FOR FOREST INVENTORY; TO AMEND SECTIONS
15 49-19-1, 49-19-3 AND 49-19-407, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
16 CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTIONS; TO REPEAL SECTION 51-5-15,
17 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
18 FOR THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS; TO AMEND SECTION 7-7-2,
19 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING SECTION; TO
20 REPEAL SECTION 39-5-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
21 ESTABLISHES THE DANCING RABBIT CREEK TREATY SITE ADVISORY
22 COMMITTEE; TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
23 ABOLISH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDENT VISION SCREENING
24 PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 69-15-303, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
25 WHICH ESTABLISHES THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF ANIMAL
26 HEALTH AND THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BOARD FOR ADVICE
27 IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE ERADICATION OF CERTAIN TICKS; TO
28 AMEND SECTION 69-15-301, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO
29 THE PRECEDING SECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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



31 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-31-209, Mississippi Code of 1972,
32 which establishes an advisory council for the Mississippi Board of
33 Vocational and Technical Education and provides the duties of the
34 council, is repealed.

35 **SECTION 2.** Section 39-31-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
36 establishes the Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration Commission,
37 is repealed.

38 **SECTION 3.** Section 27-7-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
39 provides that each resident individual taxpayer who files a
40 Mississippi income tax return and who will receive a tax refund
41 from the Department of Revenue may designate that a contribution
42 be made to the "Mississippi Bicentennial Celebration Fund," is
43 repealed.

44 **SECTION 4.** Section 27-19-56.344, Mississippi Code of 1972,
45 is amended as follows:

46 27-19-56.344. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
47 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
48 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as
49 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
50 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
51 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
52 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
53 vehicle registered in his or her name commemorating the
54 bicentennial of the establishment of the State of Mississippi.
55 The distinctive license tags so issued shall be of such color and



56 design as the Department of Revenue * * * may prescribe and shall
57 consist of such letters or numbers, or both, as may be necessary
58 to distinguish each license tag.

59 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
60 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
61 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The application and the
62 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
63 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
64 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis
65 as prescribed by the department. The portion of the additional
66 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
67 county general fund.

68 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
69 after July 1, 2013, any person applying for a distinctive license
70 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
71 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
72 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
73 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a
74 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established
75 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
76 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
77 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
78 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
79 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive



80 license tag, he or she must surrender it to the local county tax
81 collector.

82 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into
83 the State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each
84 month, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the State
85 Treasurer the total fees collected under this section from the
86 issuance of the distinctive license tags issued under this
87 section. The State Treasurer shall distribute such collections as
88 follows:

89 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
90 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
91 section shall be distributed to the * * * Mississippi Department
92 of Archives and History.

93 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
94 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
95 be deposited into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created pursuant
96 to Section 7-9-70.

97 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
98 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
99 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund
100 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or
101 reconstruction of highways.

102 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
103 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall



104 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
105 27-19-44.2.

106 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
107 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
108 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
109 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
110 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
111 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
112 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
113 tag.

114 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
115 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
116 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
117 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
118 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
119 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
120 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
121 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
122 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
123 distinctive license tags issued under this section.

124 **SECTION 5.** Section 27-19-56.437, Mississippi Code of 1972,
125 is amended as follows:

126 27-19-56.437. (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a
127 resident of this state, upon payment of the road and bridge
128 privilege taxes, ad valorem taxes and registration fees as



129 prescribed by law for private carriers of passengers, pickup
130 trucks and other noncommercial motor vehicles, and upon payment of
131 an additional fee in the amount provided in subsection (3) of this
132 section, shall be issued a distinctive license tag for any motor
133 vehicle registered in his name commemorating the bicentennial of
134 Mississippi's statehood. The distinctive license tags so issued
135 shall be of such color and design as the Department of Revenue,
136 with the advice of the Department of Archives and History, may
137 prescribe and shall consist of such letters or numbers, or both,
138 as may be necessary to distinguish each license tag.

139 (2) Application for the distinctive license tags authorized
140 by this section shall be made to the county tax collector on forms
141 prescribed by the Department of Revenue. The application and the
142 additional fee imposed under subsection (3) of this section, less
143 Two Dollars (\$2.00) thereof to be retained by the tax collector,
144 shall be remitted to the Department of Revenue on a monthly basis
145 as prescribed by the department. The portion of the additional
146 fee retained by the tax collector shall be deposited into the
147 county general fund.

148 (3) Beginning with any registration year commencing on or
149 after July 1, 2016, any person applying for a distinctive license
150 tag under this section shall pay an additional fee in the amount
151 of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) for each distinctive license tag
152 applied for under this section, which shall be in addition to all
153 other taxes and fees. The additional fee paid shall be for a



154 period of time to run concurrently with the vehicle's established
155 license tag year. The additional fee is due and payable at the
156 time the original application is made for a distinctive license
157 tag under this section and thereafter annually at the time of
158 renewal registration as long as the owner retains the distinctive
159 license tag. If the owner does not wish to retain the distinctive
160 license tag, he or she must surrender it to the local county tax
161 collector.

162 (4) The Department of Revenue shall deposit all fees into
163 the State Treasury on the day collected. At the end of each
164 month, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the State
165 Treasurer the total fees collected under this section from the
166 issuance of the distinctive license tags issued under this
167 section. The State Treasurer shall distribute such collections as
168 follows:

169 (a) Twenty-four Dollars (\$24.00) of each additional fee
170 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this
171 section shall be * * * distributed to the Mississippi Department
172 of Archives and History.

173 (b) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
174 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
175 be deposited into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created pursuant
176 to Section 7-9-70.

177 (c) Two Dollars (\$2.00) of each additional fee
178 collected on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this



179 section shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund
180 to be expended solely for the repair, maintenance, construction or
181 reconstruction of highways.

182 (d) One Dollar (\$1.00) of each additional fee collected
183 on distinctive license tags issued pursuant to this section shall
184 be deposited to the credit of the special fund created in Section
185 27-19-44.2.

186 (5) A regular license tag must be properly displayed as
187 required by law until replaced by a distinctive license tag under
188 this section. The regular license tag must be surrendered to the
189 tax collector upon issuance of the distinctive license tag under
190 this section. The tax collector shall issue up to two (2) license
191 decals for each distinctive license tag issued under this section,
192 which will expire the same month and year as the regular license
193 tag.

194 (6) In the case of loss or theft of a distinctive license
195 tag issued under this section, the owner may make application and
196 affidavit for a replacement distinctive license tag as provided by
197 Section 27-19-37. The fee for a replacement distinctive license
198 tag shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00). The tax collector receiving
199 such application and affidavit shall be entitled to retain and
200 deposit into the county general fund five percent (5%) of the fee
201 for such replacement license tag and the remainder shall be
202 distributed in the same manner as funds from the sale of regular
203 distinctive license tags issued under this section.



204 * * *

205 **SECTION 6.** Sections 49-19-401, 49-19-403, 49-19-405 and
206 49-19-408, Mississippi Code of 1972, which establish the
207 Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory, are repealed.

208 **SECTION 7.** Section 49-19-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
209 amended as follows:

210 49-19-1. (1) There shall be a State Forestry Commission
211 composed of ten (10) members, who shall be qualified electors of
212 the state. The Dean of the School of Forest Resources at
213 Mississippi State University shall be an ex officio member of the
214 commission, with full voting authority. * * * The Governor shall
215 appoint eight (8) members, with the advice and consent of the
216 Senate, for a term of six (6) years. The Governor shall appoint
217 one (1) member from each congressional district as constituted at
218 the time the appointments are made and shall appoint the remainder
219 of the members from the state at large. A member from a
220 congressional district must be a certified tree farmer who owns
221 eighty (80) or more acres of forest land or a person who derives a
222 major portion of his or her personal income from forest-related
223 business, industry or other related activities. Members of the
224 commission from the state at large may or may not possess the same
225 qualifications as members appointed from the congressional
226 districts.

227 (2) The members of the commission shall receive no annual
228 salary but each member of the commission shall receive a per diem



229 plus expenses and mileage as authorized by law for each day
230 devoted to the discharge of official duties. No member of the
231 commission shall receive total per diem in excess of twenty-four
232 (24) days' compensation per annum.

233 (3) If a vacancy occurs in the office of an appointed member
234 of the commission, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment for
235 the balance of the unexpired term.

236 (4) The commission shall elect from its membership a * * *
237 chair, who shall preside over meetings, and a vice * * * chair,
238 who shall preside in the absence of the * * * chair or when
239 the * * * chair is excused.

240 (5) The commission shall adopt rules and regulations
241 governing times and places for meetings, and governing the manner
242 of conducting its business. Each member of the commission shall
243 take the oath prescribed by Section 268 of the Mississippi
244 Constitution of 1890 and shall enter into a bond in the amount of
245 Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) to be approved by the
246 Secretary of State, conditioned according to law and payable to
247 the State of Mississippi before assuming the duties of office.

248 (6) Any appointment made to the commission contrary to this
249 section shall be void, and it is unlawful for the State Fiscal
250 Officer to pay any per diem or authorize the expenses of the
251 appointee.

252 **SECTION 8.** Section 49-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
253 amended as follows:



254 49-19-3. The duties and powers of the commission shall be:

255 (a) To appoint a State Forester, who shall serve at the
256 will and pleasure of the commission and who is qualified to
257 perform the duties as set forth herein; and to pay him such salary
258 as is provided by the Legislature, and allow him such office
259 expenses incidental to the performance of his official duties as
260 the commission, in its discretion, may deem necessary; and to
261 charge him with the immediate direction and control, subject to
262 the supervision and approval of the commission, of all matters
263 relating to forestry as authorized herein. Any person appointed
264 by the commission as State Forester shall have received a
265 bachelor's degree in forestry from an accredited school or college
266 of forestry and shall be licensed and registered under the
267 provisions of the Mississippi Foresters Registration Law (Section
268 73-36-1 et seq.) and in addition shall have had at least five (5)
269 years' administrative experience in a forestry-related field.

270 (b) To take such action and provide and maintain such
271 organized means as may seem necessary and expedient to prevent,
272 control and extinguish forest fires, including the enforcement of
273 any and all laws pertaining to the protection of forests and
274 woodland.

275 (c) To encourage forest and tree planting for the
276 production of a wood crop, for the protection of water supply, for
277 windbreak and shade, or for any other beneficial purposes



278 contributing to the general welfare, public hygiene and comfort of
279 the people.

280 (d) To cause to be made such technical investigations
281 and studies concerning forest conditions, the propagation, care
282 and protection of forest and shade trees, the care and management
283 of forests, their growth, yield and the products and by-products
284 thereof, and any other competent subject, including forest
285 taxation, bearing on the timber supply and needs of the state,
286 which the commission, in its discretion, may deem proper.

287 (e) To assist and cooperate with any federal or state
288 department or institution, county, town, corporation or
289 individual, under such terms as in the judgment of the commission
290 will best serve the public interest, in the preparation and
291 execution of plans for the protection, management, replacement, or
292 extension of the forest, woodland and roadside or other ornamental
293 tree growth in the state.

294 (f) To encourage public interest in forestry by means
295 of correspondence, the public press, periodicals, the publication
296 of bulletins and leaflets for general distribution, the delivery
297 of lectures in the schools and other suitable means, and to
298 cooperate to the fullest extent with the extension department
299 services of the state colleges in promoting reforestation. It
300 shall be the duty of the State Forester to cooperate with private
301 timber owners in laying plans for the protection, management and
302 replacement of forests and in aiding them to form protection



303 associations. It shall be his duty to examine all timbered lands
304 belonging to the state and its institutions and report to the
305 commission upon their timber conditions and actual value, and also
306 whether some of these lands may not be held as state forests. He
307 shall be responsible for the protection and management of lands
308 donated, purchased or belonging to the state or state
309 institutions, and all other lands reserved by the state as state
310 forests.

311 (g) To control the expenditure of any and all funds
312 appropriated or otherwise made available for the several purposes
313 set forth herein under suitable regulations and restrictions by
314 the commission and to specifically authorize any officer or
315 employee of the commission to incur necessary and stipulated
316 expenses in connection with the work in which such person may be
317 engaged.

318 (h) To submit annually to the Legislature a report of
319 the expenditures, proceedings and results achieved, together with
320 such other matters including recommendations concerning
321 legislation as are germane to the aims and purposes of this
322 chapter.

323 (i) To create, establish and organize the State of
324 Mississippi into forestry districts for the most effective and
325 efficient administration of the commission.

326 (j) To appoint, upon the State Forester's
327 recommendation, six (6) individuals who shall be designated



328 Mississippi Forestry Commission Law Enforcement Officers with
329 authority to bear arms, investigate and make arrests; however, the
330 law enforcement duties and authority of the officers shall be
331 limited to woods arson. The officers shall comply with applicable
332 minimum educational and training standards for law enforcement
333 officers. These officers may issue citations for any violation of
334 those laws for recklessly or with gross negligence causing fire to
335 burn the lands of another. A citation issued by a Forestry
336 Commission law enforcement officer shall be issued on a uniform
337 citation form consisting of an original and at least two (2)
338 copies. Such citation shall show, among other necessary
339 information, the name of the issuing officer, the name of the
340 court in which the cause is to be heard and the date and time the
341 person charged with a violation is to appear to answer the charge.
342 The uniform citation form shall make a provision on it for
343 information that will constitute a complaint charging the offense
344 for which the citation was issued and, when duly sworn to and
345 filed with a court of competent jurisdiction, prosecution may
346 proceed under that complaint. For the purposes of this paragraph,
347 the fact that any person is found to have a brush or debris pile
348 or other material which is or was being burned and reasonable and
349 prudent efforts were not taken to prevent the spread of the fire
350 onto the lands of another shall be evidence that such person
351 recklessly or with gross negligence caused the land to burn.

352 This paragraph shall stand repealed on June 30, 2018.



353 * * *

354 **SECTION 9.** Section 49-19-407, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
355 amended as follows:

356 49-19-407. The Executive Directors of the * * * Mississippi
357 Forestry Commission, the Mississippi Development Authority, the
358 MSU Forest and Wildlife Research Center, and the Cooperative
359 Extension Service shall establish a procedure and guidelines for
360 the coordination of outreach and education programs. It shall be
361 the duty of each agency to cooperate and to promote a coordinated
362 outreach and education program to increase the utilization of
363 private nonindustrial forest landowner forest resources and
364 increase profitability for such resources.

365 **SECTION 10.** Section 51-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
366 authorizes the Board of Water Commissioners to appoint an advisory
367 committee to advise it, to make recommendations for the regulation
368 and control of water well drillers, and to assist in examining
369 applicants and provides for the members of the advisory committee,
370 is repealed.

371 **SECTION 11.** Section 7-7-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
372 amended as follows:

373 7-7-2. (1) The Mississippi General Accounting Office and
374 the State Fiscal Officer, acting through the Bureau of Budget and
375 Fiscal Management, shall be the Department of Public Accounts
376 formerly in the Office of the State Auditor of Public Accounts.



377 (2) The words "State Auditor of Public Accounts," "State
378 Auditor" and "Auditor" appearing in the laws of this state in
379 connection with the performance of Auditor's functions shall mean
380 the State Fiscal Officer, and, more particularly, such words or
381 terms shall mean the State Fiscal Officer whenever they appear in
382 Sections 5-1-57, 5-1-59, 5-3-23, 7-1-33, 7-1-63, 7-3-29, 7-5-31,
383 7-11-25, 17-13-11, 9-1-36, 9-3-7, 9-3-23, 9-3-27, 9-3-29, 9-3-45,
384 11-35-11, 11-45-1, 21-33-47, 21-33-401, 23-5-215, 25-1-75,
385 25-1-81, 25-1-95, 25-1-98, 25-3-41, 25-3-51, 25-3-53, 25-3-55,
386 25-3-57, 25-3-59, 25-3-97, 25-7-7, 25-7-83, 25-9-135, 25-31-8,
387 25-31-10, 25-31-37, 27-1-35, 27-3-43, 27-3-45, 27-3-57, 27-3-59,
388 27-5-22, 27-5-103, 27-7-45, 27-7-313, 27-9-49, 27-11-3, 27-13-55,
389 27-15-203, 27-15-239, 27-15-241, 27-21-13, 27-29-1, 27-29-5,
390 27-29-11, 27-29-13, 27-29-15, 27-29-17, 27-29-25, 27-29-33,
391 27-31-109, 27-33-11, 27-33-41, 27-33-45, 27-33-47, 27-35-121,
392 27-35-149, 27-37-303, 27-39-13, 27-39-319, 27-41-19, 27-41-23,
393 27-41-25, 27-41-27, 27-41-41, 27-41-75, 27-45-1, 27-45-13,
394 27-45-19, 27-49-5, 27-49-9, 27-55-19, 27-55-47, 27-55-555,
395 27-57-35, 27-59-51, 27-65-51, 27-65-53, 27-67-29, 27-69-3,
396 27-69-73, 27-69-77, 27-71-301, 27-71-305, 27-71-339, 27-73-1,
397 27-73-7, 27-73-11, 27-103-55, 27-103-67, 27-105-7, 27-105-19,
398 27-105-21, 27-105-23, 27-105-33, 27-107-11, 27-107-59, 27-107-81,
399 27-107-101, 27-107-121, 27-107-141, 27-107-157, 27-107-173,
400 29-1-27, 29-1-79, 29-1-85, 29-1-87, 29-1-93, 29-1-95, 29-1-111,
401 31-3-17, 31-7-9, 31-9-15, 31-17-3, 31-17-59, 31-17-105, 31-19-17,



402 31-19-19, 31-19-21, 31-19-23, 31-5-15, 33-9-11, 35-7-45, 35-9-3,
403 35-9-5, 35-9-27, 35-9-29, 35-9-33, 37-3-7, 37-3-15, 37-3-17,
404 37-3-39, 37-13-33, 37-19-27, 37-19-29, 37-19-45, 37-19-47,
405 37-25-27, 37-27-17, 37-29-165, 37-31-41, 37-33-31, 37-33-71,
406 37-43-47, 37-101-103, 37-101-149, 37-109-25, 37-113-5, 37-133-7,
407 39-1-31, 39-3-109, 41-3-13, 41-4-19, 41-7-25, 41-73-71, 43-9-35,
408 43-13-113, 43-29-29, 45-1-11, 45-1-23, 47-5-77, 47-5-155, 49-1-65,
409 49-5-21, 49-5-97, 49-17-69, 49-19-1, * * * 51-33-77, 51-33-79,
410 51-33-81, 51-33-87, 53-1-77, 55-3-41, 57-4-21, 57-9-5, 57-10-123,
411 57-13-7, 57-13-19, 57-15-5, 59-5-53, 59-7-103, 59-9-71, 59-17-47,
412 63-19-51, 65-1-111, 65-1-117, 65-9-9, 65-9-17, 65-9-25, 65-11-43,
413 65-11-45, 65-23-107, 65-26-7, 65-26-35, 69-9-5, 69-15-113,
414 71-5-359, 73-5-5, 73-6-9, 73-19-13, 73-36-17, 75-75-109, 77-3-89,
415 77-9-493, 77-11-201, 81-1-49, 83-1-13, 83-1-37, 83-1-39, 83-43-7,
416 83-43-21, 89-11-27, 97-11-29, 97-21-1, 97-21-61 and 99-15-19,
417 Mississippi Code of 1972.

418 **SECTION 12.** Section 39-5-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, which
419 establishes the Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty Site Advisory
420 Committee and provides the members and duties of the committee, is
421 repealed.

422 **SECTION 13.** Section 37-3-87, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
423 amended as follows:

424 37-3-87. (1) The State Department of Education is hereby
425 authorized and empowered to establish a student vision screening
426 program to make eye screening services available to students in



427 Grades K-12 in the public schools in order to detect vision
428 problems which can lead to academic problems. Such eye screening
429 service shall be based on a process that is screening in nature,
430 and not diagnostic, which is intended to identify with a
431 reasonably high probability, students with a wide range of eye
432 problems who should seek the services of an eye care professional
433 for examination, diagnosis and corrective recommendation. Such
434 eye screening service shall provide each student screened with a
435 report of the student's screening results to be taken home. Each
436 school shall be provided with a list of the students screened, and
437 their results. Statistical summaries of the screening results
438 shall be provided to each school, and composite statistics by
439 school system, county or district shall be provided to the State
440 Department of Education. The State Department of Education may
441 contract with any legal entity to administer the student vision
442 screening program on the school district level, and such contract
443 shall be let on a competitive basis. State funding for * * * the
444 program shall only be available subject to appropriation by the
445 Legislature.

446 (2) The school board of any local school district shall
447 cooperate with the State Department of Education and any entity
448 under contract with the department to implement the student vision
449 screening program established under this section.

450 * * *



451 **SECTION 14.** Section 69-15-303, Mississippi Code of 1972,
452 which establishes the advisory commission to the Board of Animal
453 Health and the assistant executive officer thereof in all matters
454 pertaining to the eradication of the Texas fever and splenic fever
455 and fever-carrying tick, is repealed.

456 **SECTION 15.** Section 69-15-301, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
457 amended as follows:

458 69-15-301. (1) The work of tick eradication shall be
459 prosecuted by the Board of Animal Health under the following
460 provisions: The State Veterinarian, with the approval and consent
461 of the board, shall hire an assistant executive officer for tick
462 eradication who shall receive a salary of not exceeding Four
463 Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) per annum to be fixed by the board,
464 who shall be duly qualified for the work and of recognized ability
465 and experience in tick eradication and who shall have full
466 authority and jurisdiction, subject to the rules and regulations
467 of the Board of Animal Health in the matter, direction and
468 administration of the work of eradication of the Texas and splenic
469 fever and the fever-carrying tick, in the State of Mississippi,
470 until such time as in the judgment of the * * * board it is
471 necessary for the prosecution to a successful conclusion of the
472 campaign of eradicating said ticks and tick fever.

473 (2) The assistant executive officer shall have for the
474 purpose of eradication of the Texas and splenic fever or
475 fever-carrying tick, all the powers, authority and jurisdiction



476 now conferred by law upon the Executive Officer of the Board of
477 Animal Health, upon the conditions and limitations set forth in
478 this section * * *.

479 (3) The assistant executive officer shall employ such
480 inspectors and range riders and other employees as may be deemed
481 necessary by the Board of Animal Health for the successful
482 prosecution of the work of eradication of the * * * Texas and
483 splenic fever and fever-carrying tick, * * * the compensation of
484 such inspectors, range riders, and other employees to be * * *
485 fixed by the board and paid out of any appropriation made to * * *
486 the board for tick eradication.

487 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
488 and after July 1, 2018.

