

By: Representatives Pigott, Holloway,  
Anthony

To: Agriculture; Workforce  
Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 1566  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A NEW CODE SECTION TO BE CODIFIED AS SECTION  
2 69-1-119, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSIONER  
3 OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL GUIDANCE AND  
4 OUTREACH TO LANDOWNERS, FARMERS AND PRODUCERS REGARDING THE  
5 MANAGEMENT OF NUISANCE WILDLIFE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT  
6 TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND ANY SPECIAL FUNDS RECEIVED FOR THIS PURPOSE;  
7 TO AMEND SECTION 69-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE  
8 THE NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK THEFT BUREAU  
9 INVESTIGATORS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BUREAU TO CONDUCT TRAINING FOR  
10 LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO LAWS ENFORCED BY THE BUREAU AND TO  
11 ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN CASES OF DISASTER; TO  
12 AMEND SECTION 25-1-77, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE  
13 CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS OF DEPARTMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES FROM  
14 BUREAU OF FLEET MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION 69-5-1,  
15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ABOLISH THE STATE FAIR COMMISSION AND  
16 TRANSFER ITS FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
17 AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 69-5-3, 69-5-5,  
18 69-5-7, 69-5-8, 69-5-11, 69-5-13, 69-5-15, 69-5-27, 69-5-29 AND  
19 69-5-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO; AND FOR  
20 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

22 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
23 69-1-119, Mississippi Code of 1972:

24 69-1-119. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce may  
25 provide technical guidance and outreach to landowners, farmers and  
26 producers regarding the management of nuisance wildlife on private  
27 agricultural and forestry lands. The commissioner is authorized



28 to partner with state and federal agencies regarding nuisance  
29 wildlife management and to promote awareness across the state.  
30 The department is authorized to accept and expend any special  
31 funds received through grants or any other source as appropriated  
32 by the Legislature.

33 **SECTION 2.** Section 69-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
34 amended as follows:

35 69-29-1. (1) (a) There is established the Mississippi  
36 Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau.

37 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce shall  
38 appoint a director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock  
39 Theft Bureau. Such director shall have at least five (5) years of  
40 law enforcement experience. Such director shall be responsible  
41 solely to the supervision of the Commissioner of Agriculture and  
42 to no other person or entity. Such director may be discharged  
43 only for just cause shown.

44 (c) The director may employ \* \* \* twelve (12)  
45 agricultural and livestock theft investigators \* \* \*. Each  
46 investigator shall be certified as a law enforcement officer,  
47 successfully completing at least a nine-week training course, in  
48 accordance with Section 45-6-11. The curriculum for the training  
49 of constables shall not be sufficient for meeting the  
50 certification requirements of this paragraph. In the selection of  
51 investigators under this section, preference shall be given to  
52 persons who have previous law enforcement experience.



53           (d) The director appointed under this section, under  
54 the direction, control and supervision of the commissioner, and  
55 the investigators employed under this section shall perform only  
56 the duties described in subsection (2) of this section and shall  
57 not be assigned any other duties.

58           (2) The director appointed under this section and the  
59 investigators employed under this section shall have the following  
60 powers, duties and authority:

61           (a) To enforce all of the provisions of Sections  
62 69-29-9 and 69-29-11, and particularly those portions requiring  
63 persons transporting livestock to have a bill of sale in their  
64 possession; to make investigations of violations of such sections  
65 and to arrest persons violating same;

66           (b) To enforce all of the laws of this state enacted  
67 for the purpose of preventing the theft of livestock, poultry,  
68 timber and agricultural, aquacultural and timber products and  
69 implements; to make investigations of violations thereof and to  
70 arrest persons violating same;

71           (c) To cooperate with all regularly constituted law  
72 enforcement officers relative to the matters herein set forth;

73           (d) To serve warrants and other process emanating from  
74 any court of lawful jurisdiction, including search warrants, in  
75 all matters herein set forth;



76           (e) To carry proper credentials evidencing their  
77 authority, which shall be exhibited to any person making demand  
78 therefor;

79           (f) To make arrests without warrant in all matters  
80 herein set forth in cases where same is authorized under the  
81 constitutional and general laws of this state;

82           (g) To handle the registration of brands of cattle and  
83 livestock;

84           (h) To investigate, prevent, apprehend and arrest those  
85 persons anywhere in the state who are violating any of the laws  
86 administered by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce,  
87 including, but not limited to, all agriculture-related  
88 crimes \* \* \*;

89           (i) To access and examine records of any person,  
90 business or entity that harvests, loads, carries, receives or  
91 manufactures timber products as defined in this section. Each  
92 such person or entity shall permit the director or any  
93 investigator of the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft  
94 Bureau to examine records of the sale, transfer or purchase of  
95 timber or timber products, including, but not limited to,  
96 contracts, load tickets, settlement sheets, drivers' logs,  
97 invoices, checks and any other records or documents related to an  
98 ongoing investigation of the Mississippi Agricultural and  
99 Livestock Theft Bureau \* \* \*;



100           (j) To conduct training for law enforcement regarding  
101 laws enforced by the bureau and to assist any other law  
102 enforcement agencies in responding to matters that may be related  
103 to agriculture and commerce in the State of Mississippi and in  
104 cases of natural disasters or other disasters to respond as needed  
105 or as requested by other agencies.

106           (3) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce shall  
107 furnish such investigators with such vehicles, equipment and  
108 supplies as may be necessary. All expenses of same, and all other  
109 expenses incurred in the administration of this section, shall be  
110 paid from such appropriation as may be made by the Legislature.

111           (4) The \* \* \* Mississippi Department of Revenue and its  
112 agents and employees shall cooperate with such investigators by  
113 furnishing to them information as to any possible or suspected  
114 violations of any of the laws mentioned herein, including  
115 specifically Section 69-29-27, and in any other lawful manner.

116           (5) The conservation officers of the Department of Wildlife,  
117 Fisheries and Parks are authorized to cooperate with and assist  
118 the agricultural and livestock theft investigators in the  
119 enforcement and apprehension of violators of laws regarding  
120 agricultural and livestock theft.

121           (6) The Mississippi Forestry Commission employees are  
122 excluded from any timber and timber products theft investigative  
123 responsibilities except when technical expertise is needed and  
124 requested through the State Forester or his designee.



125 (7) For the purposes of this section, "timber product" means  
126 timber of all kinds, species or sizes, including, but not limited  
127 to, logs, lumber, poles, pilings, posts, blocks, bolts, cordwood  
128 and pulpwood, pine stumpwood, pine knots or other distillate wood,  
129 crossties, turpentine (crude gum), pine straw, firewood and all  
130 other products derived from timber or trees that have a sale or  
131 commercial value.

132 **SECTION 3.** Section 25-1-77, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
133 amended as follows:

134 25-1-77. (1) There is created the Bureau of Fleet  
135 Management within the Office of Purchasing, Travel and Fleet  
136 Management, Department of Finance and Administration, for the  
137 purposes of coordinating and promoting efficiency and economy in  
138 the purchase, lease, rental, acquisition, use, maintenance and  
139 disposal of vehicles by state agencies. The Executive Director of  
140 the Department of Finance and Administration may employ a Fleet  
141 Management Officer to manage the bureau and carry out its  
142 purposes. The bureau may employ other suitable and competent  
143 personnel as necessary. The bureau shall encourage the use of  
144 fuel efficient or hybrid vehicles appropriate for the state  
145 agency's intended purpose and, when feasible, the use of  
146 alternative fuels or energy sources, including, but not limited  
147 to, ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas or electric power. The bureau  
148 shall prepare a fiscal analysis of the cost-effectiveness of using  
149 alternative fuel or energy source vehicles by state agencies, and



150 submit a report of that fiscal analysis to the Legislature by  
151 December 15, 2009. Not later than July 1, 2014, at least  
152 seventy-five percent (75%) of all vehicles to which the bureau  
153 holds title in the name of the state must have a fuel economy  
154 estimate by the United States Environmental Protection Agency of  
155 forty (40) miles per gallon or higher for highway driving.

156 (2) The Bureau of Fleet Management shall perform the  
157 following duties:

158 (a) To hold title in the name of the State of  
159 Mississippi to all vehicles currently in possession of state  
160 agencies as defined in Section 25-9-107(d) and to assign vehicles  
161 to such agencies for use; however, the bureau shall exempt any  
162 agency or agency vehicles from the provisions of this paragraph  
163 (a) if it determines that state or federal law requires that title  
164 be vested only in the agency;

165 (b) To establish rules and regulations for state agency  
166 use of vehicles;

167 (c) To gather information and specify proper fleet  
168 management practices for state agencies;

169 (d) To acquire fleet management software and require  
170 agencies to provide necessary information for the bureau to  
171 properly monitor the size, use, maintenance and disposal of the  
172 state's fleet of vehicles; the bureau shall communicate regularly  
173 with the fleet managers of each state agency to determine  
174 strengths and weaknesses of the various fleet operations; the



175 bureau shall disseminate information to the agencies so that each  
176 can take advantage of any beneficial practices being incorporated  
177 at other entities; the bureau shall promulgate rules and  
178 regulations concerning the mileage reimbursement practices of each  
179 state agency;

180 (e) To carry out responsibilities relative to budget  
181 recommendations as provided in Section 27-103-129;

182 (f) To reassign vehicles in the possession of any state  
183 agency if the bureau believes that another state agency can make  
184 more efficient use of a vehicle; however, except as otherwise  
185 provided in Section 51-11-101, the state agency receiving the  
186 reassigned vehicle shall pay to the previous agency's special  
187 fund, or if no special fund exists to the State General Fund, the  
188 National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) wholesale value for  
189 the vehicle or the estimated amount for which the vehicle would  
190 have sold at auction, as shall be determined by the bureau,  
191 whichever is less;

192 (g) To investigate at any time the vehicle usage  
193 practices of any state agency; and

194 (h) To require each agency to submit to the bureau a  
195 vehicle acquisition/use/disposal plan on an annual basis. From  
196 the plans received, the bureau shall evaluate the proposed plans  
197 and shall submit a recommendation to the Legislature prior to  
198 January 1 of each year.





199 (3) No state department, institution or agency shall  
200 purchase, rent, lease or acquire any motor vehicle, regardless of  
201 the source of funds from which the motor vehicle is to be  
202 purchased, except under authority granted by the Department of  
203 Finance and Administration. The Bureau of Fleet Management,  
204 Department of Finance and Administration, shall promulgate rules  
205 and regulations governing the purchase, rental, lease or  
206 acquisition of any motor vehicle by a state department,  
207 institution or agency with regard to the appropriateness of the  
208 vehicle to its intended use. The Bureau of Fleet Management,  
209 Department of Finance and Administration, shall only grant  
210 authority to purchase, rent, lease or acquire a motor vehicle  
211 which is the lowest cost vehicle to carry out its intended use.  
212 Before the disposal or sale of any vehicle, the Bureau of Fleet  
213 Management shall make a determination that the lifetime use and  
214 mileage of the vehicle has been maximized and that it would not be  
215 feasible for another state agency to use the vehicle.

216 (4) The department, institution or agency shall maintain  
217 proper documentation which provides the intended use of the  
218 vehicle and the basis for choosing the vehicle. Such  
219 documentation shall show that the department, institution or  
220 agency made diligent efforts to purchase, rent, lease or acquire a  
221 vehicle that is the lowest cost vehicle for its intended use.  
222 Such documentation shall be updated as needed when the intended  
223 use of the vehicle or any other facts concerning the vehicle are



224 changed. All such documentation shall be approved by the State  
225 Fleet Officer prior to purchase, rental, lease or acquisition or  
226 change in use of any vehicle and shall be maintained and made  
227 available for review by the State Auditor, any other reviewing  
228 agency and the Legislature. The Bureau of Fleet Management shall  
229 immediately notify the department head of any agency that has a  
230 vehicle found to be in violation of the bureau's rules and  
231 regulations. At the same time, the bureau shall notify the  
232 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Lieutenant  
233 Governor of its findings regarding any such vehicle. If the  
234 violation is not rectified within five (5) days of the notice,  
235 then the bureau may seize the vehicle and dispose of it as the  
236 bureau deems to be in the best interest of the State of  
237 Mississippi.

238 (5) On or before September 1 of each year, the Bureau of  
239 Fleet Management shall prepare and deliver to the Senate and House  
240 Appropriations Committees and the Joint Legislative Budget  
241 Committee a report containing any irregularities that it finds  
242 concerning purchases of state-owned vehicles.

243 (6) The Department of Public Safety and the Department of  
244 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks may retain any vehicle seized  
245 pursuant to the forfeiture laws of this state, and the total  
246 number of vehicles assigned to each such agency shall not be  
247 reduced by the number of seized vehicles which the agency retains.



248 (7) The Bureau of Fleet Management, upon request, shall  
249 grant an exemption from the provisions of this section for only  
250 any vehicle assigned to a sworn officer of the Department of  
251 Public Safety or of the Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau of  
252 the Department of Agriculture and Commerce and used in undercover  
253 operations when the bureau determines that compliance could  
254 jeopardize the life, health or safety of the sworn officer.

255 (8) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any  
256 state institution of higher learning.

257 (9) When making requests for authority to purchase, rent,  
258 lease or acquire vehicles as provided in subsection (3) of this  
259 section, agencies shall submit the lowest cost vehicle possible to  
260 carry out its intended use. Any such request shall be in writing  
261 from the agency head, certifying the vehicle requested is the  
262 lowest cost option available and acknowledging that any request  
263 contrary to this provision shall subject the agency head to  
264 penalties as provided in Sections 25-1-91, 31-7-55 and 31-7-57,  
265 where applicable. The Bureau of Fleet Management shall only  
266 approve the lowest cost vehicle, which in its estimation, will  
267 carry out the intended use. No agency may purchase any vehicle  
268 that the Bureau of Fleet Management has disapproved as being a  
269 higher cost option.

270 (10) No requests authorized under subsections (3) and (9) of  
271 this section shall be approved by the Bureau of Fleet Management  
272 if the requesting agency has not properly maintained in the



273 fleet/asset reporting system all information required by the  
274 Bureau of Fleet Management. Agencies shall correct any  
275 inadequacies or discrepancies in the system noted by the Bureau of  
276 Fleet Management before the bureau may approve any requests.

277 **SECTION 4.** Section 69-5-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
278 amended as follows:

279 69-5-1. (1) The Mississippi Fair Commission is hereby  
280 abolished, and all of the powers, duties, property, contractual  
281 rights and obligations and unexpended funds of that commission  
282 shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
283 on July 1, 2020. Wherever the term "Mississippi Fair Commission"  
284 appears in any law or regulation, the same shall mean the  
285 Department of Agriculture and Commerce. The transfer of personnel  
286 shall be commensurate with the number and classification of  
287 positions allocated to the commission.

288 (2) In order to promote agricultural and industrial  
289 development in Mississippi and to encourage the farmers to grow  
290 better livestock and agricultural products, there is hereby  
291 created \* \* \* an advisory council to be hereafter known as the  
292 "Mississippi Fair \* \* \* Advisory Council." The department shall  
293 receive input and guidance from the advisory council, which shall  
294 be composed of the following: The Commissioner of Agriculture and  
295 Commerce, chairman, the Director of the Mississippi State  
296 University Extension Service, President of the Mississippi  
297 Livestock Association, the Director of Mississippi Vocational



298 Education, \* \* \* the Director of the Mississippi Development  
299 Authority, the Mayor of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and an  
300 appointee of the Governor, all to serve \* \* \* without salary  
301 compensation. \* \* \*

302 **SECTION 5.** Section 69-5-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
303 amended as follows:

304 69-5-3. (1) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
305 Commerce shall set up rules and regulations consistent with the  
306 law governing the distribution of state monies for premiums or  
307 awards. It will be the duty of the \* \* \* department, at least  
308 twice each year, to approve premium lists or awards, and give out  
309 rules governing participants in state premium money in  
310 Mississippi. The \* \* \* department may invite the presidents of  
311 the various district livestock shows before the \* \* \* department  
312 when determining policies affecting district livestock shows.

313 (2) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce is  
314 hereby authorized to accept money or funds donated to the \* \* \*  
315 department, including funds to be awarded as prizes in livestock  
316 competition.

317 (3) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce shall  
318 have charge of the State Fairgrounds located in Jackson,  
319 Mississippi, including all buildings and improvements thereon, and  
320 shall have full power and authority in perfecting plans and  
321 causing to be held thereon the Mississippi State Fair and other  
322 such events that may be authorized by the \* \* \* department.



323 (4) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce is  
324 hereby authorized to employ an attorney as prescribed in Section  
325 69-1-14.

326 (5) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce may  
327 take any action authorized in Section 1 of Laws 2000, Chapter 306.

328 (6) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce may  
329 allow a commercial, charitable or governmental entity to use,  
330 publish and advertise such entity's name in connection with any of  
331 the buildings, improvements, grounds or objects located on the  
332 State Fairgrounds in Jackson, except for the Kirk Fordice Equine  
333 Center, or in connection with any of the events conducted on the  
334 State Fairgrounds in return for a monetary consideration paid to  
335 the \* \* \* department. Furthermore, the \* \* \* department may lease  
336 to any public, private, commercial or charitable entity for a term  
337 not to exceed twenty (20) years naming rights to buildings, except  
338 for the Kirk Fordice Equine Center, or property, including, but  
339 not limited to, new construction, improvements to existing  
340 buildings, grounds and/or objects located on the State Fairgrounds  
341 in return for consideration benefitting the commission. The  
342 lessee shall pay the cost of erecting, maintaining and removing  
343 signage related to the property. Those funds received from an  
344 entity for allowing its name to be used, published or advertised  
345 in connection with the buildings, improvements, objects or events  
346 shall be retained by the \* \* \* department to be used for capital  
347 improvements to the fairgrounds or in its annual operating budget.



348 The \* \* \* department shall not enter into any such agreement with  
349 any vendor whose products are illegal for participation in or use  
350 by persons eighteen (18) years of age and under.

351 (7) The \* \* \* Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is  
352 authorized to form and establish a private foundation or nonprofit  
353 corporation to receive and disburse the funds generated by the  
354 sale of naming rights described in subsection (6) of this section  
355 and for any other donations made to the \* \* \* department. The  
356 funds shall be disbursed in accordance with guidelines described  
357 in this section, and the foundation or nonprofit corporation shall  
358 be subject to the reporting requirements described in subsection  
359 (10) of this section. All funds shall remain with the foundation  
360 until disbursement and shall not be transferred to the State  
361 General Fund. No public funds shall be deposited into the account  
362 of the private foundation or nonprofit corporation established by  
363 the \* \* \* department for the benefit of the State Fairgrounds, nor  
364 shall the Legislature appropriate any State General Fund or  
365 Special Fund monies to the foundation or nonprofit corporation for  
366 such purposes. All monies received by the foundation shall be  
367 maintained separately from funds allocated to the \* \* \* department  
368 for operating and administrative costs associated with the State  
369 Fairgrounds. In addition to the reporting of information to be  
370 included in the annual legislative report of the \* \* \* department,  
371 the private foundation or nonprofit corporation shall be subject



372 to annual financial audits by the State Auditor and by auditors of  
373 donors in the same manner as required for state agencies.

374 (8) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce shall  
375 have the authority to enter into a lease or right-of-way with a  
376 third party covering any land or buildings on the State  
377 Fairgrounds and any funds generated from such lease or  
378 right-of-way shall remain in a special fund managed by the \* \* \*  
379 department for the benefit of the State Fairgrounds. All monies  
380 in the special fund may be used for capital improvements to the  
381 State Fairgrounds or in the \* \* \* department's annual operating  
382 budget for operating and administrative costs associated with the  
383 State Fairgrounds. Any unexpended funds remaining in the special  
384 fund shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest  
385 earned or investment earnings on amounts in the fund shall be  
386 deposited in the fund.

387 (9) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce is  
388 hereby authorized, with the advice of the Mississippi Fair  
389 Advisory Council, to adopt such rules and regulations as may be  
390 necessary or desirable to carry out, execute or implement the  
391 provisions of this article.

392 (10) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce shall  
393 report by January 1 of each year a detailed financial statement of  
394 all monies received and expended under subsection (6) and  
395 subsection (7) of this section to the Lieutenant Governor, the  
396 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Chairman of the





397 Senate Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the House of  
398 Representatives Agriculture Committee.

399 **SECTION 6.** Section 69-5-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
400 amended as follows:

401 69-5-5. The \* \* \* Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce  
402 shall appoint, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate, a  
403 director within the department who shall oversee all operations at  
404 the State Fairgrounds Complex and its adjoining properties and who  
405 shall \* \* \* give full and detailed reports of livestock shows and  
406 fairs participating in premium monies, for report to the Governor  
407 and Legislature. The compensation of the director shall be fixed  
408 by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, subject to  
409 approval by the State Personnel Board, and shall be exempt from  
410 the provisions of subsection (2) of Section 25-3-39.

411 **SECTION 7.** Section 69-5-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
412 amended as follows:

413 69-5-7. Headquarters of the Mississippi State Fair \* \* \*  
414 operations shall be in connection with the office of the \* \* \*  
415 Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

416 **SECTION 8.** Section 69-5-8, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
417 amended as follows:

418 69-5-8. The building under the jurisdiction of the \* \* \*  
419 Department of Agriculture and Commerce, that is located in  
420 Jackson, Mississippi, and used primarily as an arena for rodeo and  
421 livestock expositions and related events, shall be named the Kirk



422 Fordice Equine Center. The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
423 Commerce shall prepare or have prepared a distinctive plaque, to  
424 be placed in a prominent place within the Kirk Fordice Equine  
425 Center, that states the background, accomplishments and service to  
426 the state of Governor Kirk Fordice.

427 **SECTION 9.** Section 69-5-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
428 amended as follows:

429 69-5-11. (1) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
430 Commerce shall charge for admission to the State Fair. The  
431 proceeds thereof shall be used for the repayment of revenue bonds  
432 issued for the purpose of constructing, equipping and furnishing  
433 new buildings and making improvements on the State Fairgrounds.

434 (2) Funds collected in excess of those required to retire  
435 any outstanding bond indebtedness may be used as operating revenue  
436 for the \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce for operating  
437 and administrative costs associated with the State Fairgrounds,  
438 and such excess funds received by the \* \* \* department shall be  
439 deposited in \* \* \* a special fund account managed by the  
440 department for the benefit of the State Fairgrounds.

441 (3) The State Treasurer is hereby directed to invest such  
442 excess funds to the credit of the \* \* \* special account managed by  
443 the department for the benefit of the State Fairgrounds.

444 **SECTION 10.** Section 69-5-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
445 amended as follows:



446           69-5-13. The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce is  
447 hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to declare by  
448 resolution the number and type buildings which need to be  
449 constructed and the type improvements that need to be made on the  
450 state fairgrounds, and file a certified copy of said resolution  
451 with the State Building Commission. If the State Building  
452 Commission believes such construction and improvements to be in  
453 the best public interest, and that receipts from admission to the  
454 State Fair reasonably shall be expected to produce sufficient  
455 revenues over a period not to exceed twenty (20) years to retire  
456 bonds issued to pay the cost of such improvements as well as the  
457 interest thereon, it may, in its discretion, approve the request  
458 of the \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

459           **SECTION 11.** Section 69-5-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
460 amended as follows:

461           69-5-15. (1) The words "revenue bonds" shall be deemed to  
462 mean bonds payable solely from the net revenue received by  
463 the \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

464           The Department of Finance and Administration shall have power  
465 and is hereby authorized, at one time or from time to time by  
466 resolution, to authorize the issuance of negotiable revenue bonds  
467 to provide funds for the purpose of paying all or any part of the  
468 cost of construction and/or improvements requested by the \* \* \*  
469 Department of Agriculture and Commerce pursuant to Section  
470 69-5-13, or the cost of any purchase of property or improvements



471 thereon pursuant to Section 17-17-49, but in no event shall the  
472 amount of such bonds outstanding at any one time exceed Four  
473 Million Dollars (\$4,000,000.00); and shall cause a certified copy  
474 of such resolution to be delivered to the State Bond Commission.  
475 No bonds shall be issued under this section after April 23, 2008.  
476 Upon the receipt of said authorizing resolution, the State Bond  
477 Commission, acting as the issuing agent, shall issue and sell the  
478 revenue bonds of the State of Mississippi when authorized at the  
479 time and in the amount indicated in said resolution, prescribe the  
480 form of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids therefor, issue  
481 and sell the bonds, and do any and all other things necessary and  
482 advisable in the issuance and sale of said bonds. The principal  
483 of and the interest on such revenue bonds shall be payable solely  
484 from a special fund to be provided for that purpose from the net  
485 revenue received by the \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
486 Commerce. Such bonds shall bear date or dates, be in such  
487 denomination or denominations, bear interest at such rate or  
488 rates, provided that the bonds of any issue shall not bear a  
489 greater overall maximum interest rate to maturity than that  
490 allowed in Section 75-17-103, be payable at such place or places  
491 within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature at such  
492 time or times, be redeemable prior to maturity at such time or  
493 times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall bear  
494 such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in such  
495 form, all as shall be determined by the State Bond Commission.



496 Such bonds shall mature in annual installments beginning not more  
497 than three (3) years from date thereof and extending not more than  
498 twenty (20) years from date thereof. Such bonds shall be signed  
499 by the Chairman of the State Bond Commission, or by his facsimile  
500 signature, and the official seal of the State Bond Commission  
501 shall be affixed thereto, and attested by the Secretary of the  
502 State Bond Commission. The interest coupons, if any, to be  
503 attached to such bonds or other certificates thereon may be  
504 executed by the facsimile signatures of said officers. Whenever  
505 any such bonds shall have been signed by the officials herein  
506 designated to sign the bonds who were in office at the time of  
507 such signing but who may have ceased to be such officers prior to  
508 the sale and delivery of such bonds, or who may not have been in  
509 office on the date such bonds may bear, the signatures of such  
510 officers upon such bonds and coupons shall nevertheless be valid  
511 and sufficient for all purposes and have the same effect as if the  
512 person so officially signing such bonds had remained in office  
513 until the delivery of the same to the purchaser or had been in  
514 office on the date such bonds may bear.

515 (2) No bonds shall be issued under the authority of this  
516 section prior to February 1, 1983; thereafter such bonds may be  
517 issued provided that the expansion and other improvements of the  
518 Mississippi Industrial Showcase and Trade Mart Building shall have  
519 priority in the use of the proceeds of such bonds and provided  
520 that the Department of Finance and Administration has approved



521 plans to increase the size of such building by at least fifty  
522 percent (50%).

523 **SECTION 12.** Section 69-5-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
524 amended as follows:

525 69-5-27. The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
526 shall have the power and authority, in its discretion, to borrow  
527 money from any bank or banks in an amount not in excess of Two  
528 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), to be used for the repair,  
529 renovation or maintenance of buildings located at the Mississippi  
530 State Fairgrounds. The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
531 Commerce may use any funds accruing to it to service and retire  
532 said indebtedness. Such loan shall not exceed a term of ten (10)  
533 years and shall bear interest at a rate not in excess of that  
534 provided for in Section 75-17-101.

535 Any loan secured under the provisions of this section shall  
536 be approved by the State Bond Commission.

537 **SECTION 13.** Section 69-5-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
538 amended as follows:

539 69-5-29. The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
540 may by regulation establish policies for the issuance of free  
541 passes. These policies shall not prohibit officials of the fair  
542 or designated authority from entering said places for inspection  
543 purposes; shall not apply to press reporters designated to report  
544 news items; and shall not prohibit the commission from declaring



545 specified days, such as Press Day, Legislator's Day, or any other  
546 special day.

547 **SECTION 14.** Section 69-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
548 amended as follows:

549 69-5-31. (1) The \* \* \* Department of Agriculture and  
550 Commerce is authorized to hire and designate area law enforcement  
551 officers on a contractual basis to provide security and to enforce  
552 all laws of the State of Mississippi on the Mississippi State  
553 Fairgrounds Complex. All officers must have attended and  
554 satisfactorily completed the training course required for law  
555 enforcement officers at the Law Enforcement Officer's Training  
556 Academy or an equivalent facility. All officers must be current  
557 with this certification. A complete record of all law enforcement  
558 training of each employee will be maintained in each employee's  
559 record of employment. Furthermore, the \* \* \* Department of  
560 Agriculture and Commerce may enter into a contract with any  
561 certified law enforcement officer to provide security to the \* \* \*  
562 Department of Agriculture and Commerce with jurisdiction to  
563 enforce all laws of the State of Mississippi on property known as  
564 the "Mississippi State Fairgrounds Complex" and any and all of its  
565 outlying buildings and property.

566 (2) (a) All officers while in performance of their duty on  
567 the premises or at any of the facilities at the Mississippi State  
568 Fairgrounds Complex under the direction or control of the \* \* \*



569 Department of Agriculture and Commerce and public property  
570 immediately adjacent to such facilities shall:

571 (i) Be required to dress in uniforms prescribed  
572 by \* \* \* the respective law enforcement agency by which he or she  
573 is employed; and

574 (ii) Be authorized to carry weapons.

575 (b) Employees designated as officers shall be duly  
576 sworn and vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests, and  
577 shall exercise primarily the responsibilities of the prevention  
578 and detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the  
579 enforcement of the ordinances and policies of the \* \* \* Department  
580 of Agriculture and Commerce, a political subdivision of the State  
581 of Mississippi. Employees designated as such officers shall be  
582 considered law enforcement officers within the meaning of Section  
583 45-6-3.

584 **SECTION 15.** Sections 4 through 14 of this act shall stand  
585 repealed on July 1, 2022.

586 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
587 and after July 1, 2020.

