

By: Senator(s) Witherspoon

To: Environment Prot, Cons
and Water Res

SENATE BILL NO. 2393

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
2 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A PUBLIC OR
3 PRIVATE ENTITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL
4 IMPACT STUDY ON THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF HAVING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF
5 POULTRY HOUSES WITHIN A CERTAIN SQUARE MILE AREA; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Department of Environmental
9 Quality is authorized to enter into an agreement with a public or
10 private entity for the purpose of conducting an environmental
11 impact study on the effects associated with concentrating a
12 certain number of poultry houses within a defined square mileage.
13 The department must ensure that the entity selected to conduct the
14 study is capable of accomplishing the following:

15 (a) Review the processes currently in place as
16 identified in subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph and
17 identify any adverse affects on the environment and community
18 resulting from those processes:

19 (i) Permitting and inspecting poultry houses;



20 (ii) Management of manure and litter from poultry
21 houses, including whether waste management programs result in the
22 increase of insects, dusts and odor in a defined area;

23 (b) Determine whether a certain number of poultry
24 houses within a specific square mileage affects the quality of the
25 air, soil and water within the defined area, including whether a
26 certain number results in (i) emission of greenhouse gases, (ii)
27 acidification, and (iii) eutrophication;

28 (c) Determine if a certain number of poultry houses
29 within a specific square mileage affects the quality of the air,
30 soil and water in areas adjoining the defined area;

31 (d) Determine whether any public health complications
32 could result to persons residing within a certain distance of
33 poultry houses;

34 (e) Determine whether having a certain number of
35 poultry houses within a specific square mileage diminishes the
36 value of the tourism and entertainment industry of the
37 municipality and/or county in which the poultry houses are
38 located;

39 (f) Review and summarize any similar reports and
40 studies as deemed appropriate;

41 (g) Accept and summarize testimony on the experiences
42 of persons who live within a certain distance of a poultry house;

43 (h) Make recommendations based on its findings in
44 paragraphs (a) through (g) of this subsection, including



45 recommendations to develop and implement a poultry house
46 permitting process that:

47 (i) Reduces any negative public health risks;

48 (ii) Promotes the homeowners' rights of quiet use
49 and enjoyment of their property; and

50 (iii) Addresses a permit holder's financial and
51 business needs.

52 (2) The department shall review and submit the study and its
53 recommendations based on the study to the Legislature and the
54 Governor no later than December 1, 2022.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2021.

