MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION 2022

By: Representative Horan

To: Corrections

HOUSE BILL NO. 863

AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 47-5-531 THROUGH 47-5-575, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE MISSISSIPPI PRISON INDUSTRIES ACT OF 1990, FOR THE PURPOSES OF AMENDMENT; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 47-5-1251, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CREATES THE PRISON INDUSTRY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, FOR THE PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 47-5-531, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

9 brought forward as follows:

10 47-5-531. Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575 shall be known 11 as the "Mississippi Prison Industries Act of 1990."

12 SECTION 2. Section 47-5-533, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

13 brought forward as follows:

14 47-5-533. (1) It is the finding of the Legislature that 15 prison industry programs of the State Department of Corrections 16 are uniquely different from other programs operated or conducted 17 by other departments in that it is essential to the state that the 18 prison industry programs provide inmates with useful activities 19 that can lead to meaningful employment after release in order to 20 assist in reducing the return of inmates to the system.

H. B. No. 863 G1/2 22/HR12/R1694 PAGE 1 (OM\AM) (2) It is further the finding of the Legislature that themission of a prison industry program is:

(a) To reduce the cost of state government by operating
prison industries primarily with inmate labor, which industries do
not seek to unreasonably compete with private enterprise;

(b) To serve the rehabilitative goals of the state by
duplicating as nearly as possible, the operating activities of a
free-enterprise type of profit-making enterprise; and

(c) To serve the security goals of the state by
reducing the idleness of inmates and by providing an incentive for
good behavior while in prison.

32 SECTION 3. Section 47-5-535, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 33 brought forward as follows:

34 (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by 47-5-535. 35 law, it is the intent of the Legislature that a nonprofit 36 corporation be organized and formed, within sixty (60) days from 37 April 4, 1990, to lease and manage the prison industry programs of the Mississippi Correctional Industries. The corporation created 38 39 and established shall be a body politic and corporate, may acquire 40 and hold real and personal property, may receive, hold and 41 dispense monies appropriated to it by the Legislature of the State 42 of Mississippi received from the federal government, received from the sale of products, goods, and services which it produces, and 43 received from any other sources whatsoever. 44

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45 (2) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it is
46 the further intent of the Legislature that the nonprofit
47 corporation shall create any additional prison industry program as
48 it deems fit, and any such program shall be created in compliance
49 with the provisions of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575.

50 (3) Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, it is 51 the further intent of the Legislature that such nonprofit 52 corporation shall have exclusive rights to operate any prison 53 industry program and when such corporation is lawfully formed, no 54 other public or private entity shall be allowed to carry out the 55 provisions of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575.

56 It is the further intent of the Legislature, that the (4) 57 nonprofit corporation which is required to be organized and formed 58 under Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575 shall locate and operate prison industries at any state correctional facility with the 59 approval of the Commissioner of Corrections. It is the intent of 60 61 the Legislature that the nonprofit corporation locate and operate such industries in an orderly and expeditious manner. 62 Such 63 corporation may locate and operate prison industries at other 64 prison satellites, at community work centers in the state, at any 65 private correctional facility which houses state inmates and at 66 any regional correctional facility as authorized under Section 47-5-931. No industrial prison program shall be located at a site 67 68 other than state prison facilities approved by the commissioner.

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69 (5) It is the further intent of the Legislature that the 70 nonprofit corporation shall not have any rights to operate a 71 program under the prison agricultural enterprises and shall not 72 create a prison industry program that duplicates a prison 73 agricultural enterprises program or product.

(6) It is the further intent of the Legislature that the
department retain exclusive rights to conduct all prison
agricultural and related enterprises.

SECTION 4. Section 47-5-537, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
brought forward as follows:

79 The Secretary of State, or his designee, shall 47-5-537. 80 assist the Department of Corrections and the Department of Finance 81 and Administration in the formation of the nonprofit corporation, 82 and within sixty (60) days after the formation of the corporation, 83 the corporation shall apply for exemption from federal tax under 84 the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 85 of 1986, as amended. Any program of the Division of Vocational 86 Rehabilitation of the State Department of Human Services shall not 87 be classified as prison industries under the provisions Sections 88 47-5-531 through 47-5-575.

89 SECTION 5. Section 47-5-539, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
90 brought forward as follows:

91 47-5-539. For the purposes of Sections 47-5-531 through
92 47-5-575, the following terms shall have the following meanings
93 unless the context shall provide otherwise:

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94 (a) "Corporation" means the private nonprofit
95 corporation which is required to be organized and formed to carry
96 out the provisions of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575 regarding
97 prison industries.

98 (b) "Department" means the State Department of99 Corrections.

100 (c) "Inmate" means any person incarcerated within any 101 state correctional facility.

102 (d) "Prison industry program" means any program which103 is considered to be a part of any prison industry in this state.

104 (e) "Prison agricultural enterprises" means all105 agricultural endeavors as defined in Section 47-5-353.

106 SECTION 6. Section 47-5-541, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 107 brought forward as follows:

47-5-541. (1) The corporation shall be governed by a board 108 109 of directors. The board of directors of the nonprofit corporation 110 shall be composed of the following eleven (11) members who shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the 111 112 Senate: one (1) representative of the manufacturing industry, one 113 (1) representative of the agriculture industry, one (1) 114 representative of the banking and finance industry, one (1) 115 representative of the labor industry, one (1) representative from the marketing industry and six (6) members from the state at 116 117 In addition, the State Commissioner of Corrections and the large. President of Mississippi Delta Community College shall be ex 118

H. B. No. 863 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 22/HR12/R1694 PAGE 5 (OM\AM) 119 officio members of the board of directors with full voting 120 privileges. In making initial appointments, three (3) members 121 shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; four (4) members 122 shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years; and four (4) 123 members shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years; to be 124 designated by the Governor at the time of appointment; and all 125 succeeding terms shall be for four (4) years from the expiration 126 date of the previous term. Initial appointments shall be made 127 within thirty (30) days after passage of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575. Any vacancy shall be filled by the Governor, with the 128 advice and consent of the Senate. The officers of the corporation 129 130 shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman and a 131 secretary-treasurer. The officers shall be selected by the 132 members of the board. However, the Commissioner of Corrections 133 and the President of Mississippi Delta Community College shall not 134 be eligible to serve as an officer of the corporation.

135 The board of directors shall select and employ a chief (2)executive officer of the corporation who shall serve at the 136 137 pleasure of the board. The board shall set the compensation of the chief executive officer. The chief executive officer shall be 138 139 responsible for the general business and entire operations of the 140 corporation, and shall be responsible for operating the corporation in compliance with the bylaws of the corporation and 141 in compliance with any provision of law. The board shall be 142 authorized and empowered to do only those acts provided by law and 143

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H. B. No. 863 22/HR12/R1694 PAGE 6 (OM\AM) by the bylaws of the corporation. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, such board shall have the authority to establish prison industries, to cease the operation of any industry which it deems unsuitable or unprofitable, to enter into any lease or contract for the corporation and it shall have the full authority to establish prices for any industry good.

150 (3) No member of the board of directors shall vote on any 151 matter that comes before the board that could result in pecuniary 152 benefit for himself or for any entity in which such member has an 153 interest.

(4) In addition to the board of directors, an advisory board
may be set up for the benefit of each industry which is
established pursuant to the provisions of Sections 47-5-531
through 47-5-575. Such boards shall be advisory only, and may be
set up in the discretion of the board of directors of the
corporation.

160 (5) Each member of the board of directors of the corporation 161 shall receive per diem as provided in Section 25-3-69 for each day 162 or fraction thereof spent in actual discharge of his official 163 duties and shall be reimbursed for mileage and actual expenses 164 incurred in the performance of his official duties in accordance 165 with the requirements of Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 166 1972.

167 (6) The board of directors shall make and publish policies,168 rules and regulations governing all business functions, including

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but not limited to accounting, marketing, purchasing and personnel, not inconsistent with the terms of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575, as may be necessary for the efficient administration and operation of the corporation.

173 (7) The chief executive officer of the corporation shall:
174 (a) Employ all necessary employees of the corporation
175 and dismiss them as is necessary;

(b) Administer the daily operations of the corporation;
(c) Upon approval of the board of directors, execute
any contracts on behalf of the corporation; and

179 (d) Take any further actions which are necessary and180 proper toward the achievement of the corporation purposes.

(8) A member of the board of directors of the corporation shall not be liable for any civil damages for any personal injury or property damage caused to a person as a result of any acts or omissions committed in good faith in the exercise of their duties as members of the board of directors of the corporation, except where a member of the board engages in acts or omissions which are intentional, willful, wanton, reckless or grossly negligent.

188 SECTION 7. Section 47-5-543, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 189 brought forward as follows:

190 47-5-543. (1) Within sixty (60) days after the formation of 191 the corporation pursuant to the provisions of Section 47-5-535, 192 the State Department of Corrections shall lease to the corporation 193 all existing prison industries including the buildings, land,

H. B. No. 863 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 22/HR12/R1694 PAGE 8 (OM\AM) 194 furnishings, equipment and other chattel used in the operation of 195 such industries. Such lease shall be agreed upon by the State 196 Department of Corrections, State Department of Finance and 197 Administration and the corporation. The initial term of such 198 lease shall not exceed six (6) years, provided that such lease may 199 be renewed for additional successive terms of years not to exceed 200 six (6) years in any one (1) renewal. No sublease to the 201 corporation shall be in excess of that amount for which the 202 department is obligated to pay under any lease agreement with any 203 other state agency. Any receivable and remaining funds shall be 204 transferred to the corporation after the payment of any existing 205 liabilities. No operating loss of any type shall be transferred 206 to the corporation. The State Department of Corrections shall 207 continue to manage and operate the prison industries until such 208 industries are leased to the corporation. When leasing any prison 209 industry program to the corporation, the corporation shall 210 exercise a reasonable effort to employ any personnel of the State 211 Department of Corrections who are currently involved in any prison 212 industry program being leased to the corporation. Before the 213 leasing of the prison industries, buildings, lands and other items 214 mentioned herein to the corporation, the State Auditor of Public 215 Accounts shall perform a comprehensive audit of all the items and 216 things mentioned herein which are to be leased by the department 217 to the corporation. The corporation may expand, eliminate, suspend or alter any of its industries as it sees fit. 218

219 (2)Any lands, buildings, equipment, furnishings, livestock, 220 supplies and vehicles used in the department's farming operations 221 which were leased or transferred to the nonprofit corporation 222 under subsection (1) shall be transferred to the department. Any 223 personnel in the department's farming operations employed by the 224 nonprofit corporation who desire to be reassigned to the 225 department and who are under state service may be reassigned to 226 the department.

(3) The department is not required to lease land, buildings,
equipment, furnishings or other chattel used in its prison
agricultural enterprises.

230 SECTION 8. Section 47-5-545, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
231 brought forward as follows:

232 Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, 47-5-545. 233 after the commissioning and implementation of a marketing 234 feasibility study for any proposed new prison industry, the 235 corporation may establish such prison industry. Before any new 236 industry is established, the corporation shall hold a hearing to 237 determine the impact such industry may have on the private sector 238 The corporation shall provide adequate and advance notice market. 239 regarding the nature, time, date and place of such hearing. After 240 the hearing which is required under this section, the corporation may commence negotiations with the State Department of 241 242 Corrections, with the Secretary of State, or his designee, serving

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243 as a mediator, regarding the leasing of land and other chattels 244 for the purpose of establishing any new industry.

245 SECTION 9. Section 47-5-547, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
246 brought forward as follows:

247 47-5-547. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, 248 any training program or auxiliary program associated with any 249 existing prison industry shall be transferred to the corporation. 250 The corporation is empowered and authorized to establish in 251 participation with the Mississippi Delta Community College, any 252 training or auxiliary program for existing prison industries or 253 for any industries which the corporation might create. 254 Mississippi Delta Community College shall provide assistance in 255 business planning, marketing and analysis of existing or projected 256 These industrial services shall be contracted with industries. 257 appropriate community colleges when these industries are developed

258 at other correction sites.

259 SECTION 10. Section 47-5-549, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 260 brought forward as follows:

47-5-549. Any service or item manufactured, processed, grown or produced by the corporation from its prison industries may be furnished or sold to any legislative, executive or judicial branch of the state, any political subdivision or any governing authority of the state, any other state, any school, college or university of the state, any foreign government, any agency of the federal government or to any private entity. The corporation shall make

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272 **SECTION 11.** Section 47-5-551, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 273 brought forward as follows:

274 47-5-551. In the event the corporation is dissolved or its 275 lease of any prison industry program expires or is otherwise 276 terminated, all property relating to such prison industry program 277 which ceases to function because of such termination or 278 dissolution, including all funds, buildings, land, furnishings, 279 equipment and other chattels subsequently purchased or otherwise 280 acquired by the corporation in connection with its continued 281 operation of that program, automatically reverts to full ownership 282 by the department.

283 SECTION 12. Section 47-5-553, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 284 brought forward as follows:

285 47-5-553. Before any prison industry may commence 286 operations, the chief executive officer of the corporation must 287 communicate with the Commissioner of Corrections regarding the 288 proper security for the facility. If at anytime the Commissioner 289 of Corrections recognizes a need for improvement in the security 290 at any facility, then he or she shall communicate to the 291 corporation regarding what improvements are needed for the 292 facility to be properly secured. The corporation shall furnish

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295 **SECTION 13.** Section 47-5-555, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 296 brought forward as follows:

297 47-5-555. The department shall, subject to the necessary 298 security requirements and the needs of the corporation, provide to 299 the corporation sufficient inmate labor for the various prison 300 industry programs. The department may adopt rules and regulations 301 as may be necessary to govern the use of inmates by the corporation. The corporation shall establish policies and 302 303 procedures, subject to the approval of the department, relating to 304 the use of inmates in the prison industry programs.

305 **SECTION 14.** Section 47-5-557, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 306 brought forward as follows:

307 47-5-557. Any inmate who performs work for the corporation, 308 except those inmates employed by the corporation in the Prison 309 Industry Enhancement Program under Section 47-5-1251, shall not be 310 deemed an agent, employee or involuntary servant of the 311 corporation while performing such work or while going to and from 312 work or other specified areas.

313 SECTION 15. Section 47-5-559, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 314 brought forward as follows:

315 47-5-559. The corporation shall submit to the Governor and 316 the Legislature, on or before January 1 of each year, a report on 317 the status of the correctional work programs, including but not

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318 limited to the programs and funds which have been transferred to 319 the corporation, the programs and funds to be taken over within 320 the next year and the proposed use of the profits from such 321 programs, a breakdown of the amount of noninmate labor used, work subcontracted to other vendors, use of consultants, finished goods 322 323 purchased for resale, and the number of inmates working in the 324 correctional work programs at the time of the report. In 325 addition, the corporation shall submit to the department, the 326 Governor and the Legislature an annual independently audited financial statement and such other information as may be requested 327 328 by the Legislature together with recommendations from the 329 corporation relating to provisions for reasonable tax incentives 330 to private enterprises that employ inmates, parolees or former 331 inmates who have participated in correctional work programs. The department shall include, as a portion of its annual report, a 332 333 report on post-release job placement and the rate of subsequent 334 contact with the correctional system for those inmates who have participated in the correctional work programs operated by the 335 336 corporation and by the department. Beginning January 1, 1991, the 337 State Auditor shall conduct an annual financial audit of the 338 corporation in conjunction with an independent audit conducted by 339 the corporation's auditors. The State Auditor and the legislative 340 PEER committee shall also conduct a biennial performance audit of 341 the corporation for the period beginning January 1, 1991, through January 1, 1993, and thereafter upon the joint request of the 342

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345 **SECTION 16.** Section 47-5-561, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 346 brought forward as follows:

347 47-5-561. (1) In addition to its other powers, the 348 corporation shall have the power to request, through the 349 department, an appropriation of general revenue funds for the 350 purposes of operation of, addition to or renovation of facilities 351 or correctional work programs at the various correctional 352 institutions; however, upon receipt of such appropriation, the 353 rental paid by the corporation for the operation of or such new 354 remodeled or renovated facilities or the operation of a 355 correctional work program shall be sufficient to amortize its cost 356 over a period of five (5) years.

357 The corporation shall maintain those prison industries (2)358 funds in excess of that amount necessary for sustaining quarterly 359 or monthly operations of the corporation in an interest-bearing 360 account best serving the proper management of corporation funds 361 and earning the maximum amount of interest allowed by law. The 362 corporation shall cause monies from the interest-bearing account 363 to be deposited quarterly or monthly into the corporation's 364 checking account in order to pay the legal debts of the 365 corporation, approved for payment by the corporation.

366 **SECTION 17.** Section 47-5-563, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 367 brought forward as follows:

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368 47-5-563. (1) The department may adopt such rules as may be 369 necessary to govern the use of inmates by the corporation; 370 however, such rules shall be related only to the need for 371 security, inmate projections, and efficient operation of each 372 institution.

373 (2) The corporation, with the input of the department, shall 374 establish policies and procedures subject to the approval of the 375 department's legal counsel relating to the use of inmates in the 376 correctional work programs.

377 (3) All such policies and procedures adopted by the
378 department and the corporation shall be placed on file in the
379 Office of the Secretary of State.

380 SECTION 18. Section 47-5-565, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 381 brought forward as follows:

382 47-5-565. To carry out the provisions of Sections 47-5-531 383 through 47-5-575, the provisions of Sections 47-5-301 et seq., and 384 47-5-501 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, the corporation shall authorize the transfer and expending of monies from the Prison 386 Industries Fund.

387 SECTION 19. Section 47-5-567, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 388 brought forward as follows:

389 47-5-567. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, 390 no inmate shall be eligible for unemployment compensation or 391 workmen's compensation whether employed by the corporation or by 392 any other private enterprise operating on the grounds of a

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393 correctional institution or elsewhere where such employment shall 394 be a part of a correctional work program or work release program 395 of either the corporation or the department.

396 SECTION 20. Section 47-5-569, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 397 brought forward as follows:

398 47-5-569. (1) Except as otherwise specifically provided by 399 law, if the department leases a single correctional work program 400 at any correctional institution to the corporation, the 401 corporation shall lease all such correctional work programs at 402 that institution. Any rent paid by the corporation to the 403 department shall be deposited in a correctional programs trust 404 fund for enhancement of education and training, post-release job 405 placement, and other correctional purposes related to the purposes 406 of Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575.

407 (2) All leases of department-owned land for the funding or
408 operations of the corporation shall be subject to the approval of
409 the corporation, the Mississippi Department of Corrections and the
410 Public Procurement Review Board.

(3) This section shall not apply to any program within theprison agricultural enterprises operated by the department.

413 SECTION 21. Section 47-5-571, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 414 brought forward as follows:

415 47-5-571. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, 416 no goods, wares, services or merchandise manufactured, mined or 417 offered in whole or in part by prisoners shall be sold or offered

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418 by any person or other authority except by the corporation, as 419 authorized by Sections 47-5-531 through 47-5-575.

420 **SECTION 22.** Section 47-5-573, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 421 brought forward as follows:

422 47-5-573. (1) In adopting or modifying master plans for 423 correctional work programs, and in the administration of the 424 Department of Corrections, it shall be the objective of the 425 department to develop a logical sequence of vocational training, 426 employment by correctional work programs, and post-release job 427 placement for inmates participating in correctional work programs.

428 (2) The Department of Corrections shall establish guidelines429 for the development of correctional work programs.

(3) The needs of the corporation shall be considered by the
department when assigning and transferring prisoners to
correctional institutions. The following criteria shall be used
when assigning and transferring inmates:

434 (a) Skills of the inmate relevant to the corporation's435 industries;

436 (b) Security classification of the inmate relevant to437 the type of corporation's industry;

438 (c) Duration of availability of the inmate for439 employment by the corporation;

440 (d) Establishment of a concept of potentially441 rehabilitative inmate.

H. B. No. 863 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 22/HR12/R1694 PAGE 18 (OM\AM) 442 **SECTION 23.** Section 47-5-575, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 443 brought forward as follows:

444 47-5-575. Any records or reports which relate to the 445 financial aspect or operations of the corporation, with the 446 exception of any trade secrets, shall be considered as public 447 records and shall be subject to the provisions of the Mississippi 448 Public Records Act of 1983.

449 SECTION 24. Section 47-5-1251, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 450 brought forward as follows:

451 47-5-1251. (1)There is created the "Prison Industry 452 Enhancement Program," through which the Department of Corrections 453 may contract with the nonprofit corporation organized and formed 454 under the "Mississippi Prison Industries Act of 1990" to employ 455 offenders within the custody of the department or prison 456 industries. The offenders must be under the supervision of the 457 department at all times while working. The offenders shall be 458 paid, by the entity or entities, wages at a rate which is not less 459 than that paid for similar work in the locality in which the work 460 is performed. The wages may be subject to deductions which shall 461 not, in the aggregate, exceed eighty percent (80%) of gross wages. 462 The deductions shall be limited to the following:

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(a) To pay federal, state and local taxes;

(b) To pay reasonable charges for room and board asdetermined by regulations issued by the Commissioner of

466 Corrections;

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469 To pay contributions equaling not less than five (d) 470 percent (5%) but not more than twenty percent (20%) of the 471 offender's gross wages into the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund as created in Section 99-41-29. 472

473 Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the (2) 474 contrary, the offenders shall not be qualified to receive any 475 payments for unemployment compensation while incarcerated. However, the offenders shall not solely by their status as 476 477 offenders be deprived of the right to participate in benefits made 478 available by the federal or state government to other individuals on the basis of their employment, such as workers' compensation. 479

480 Offenders who participate in the employment must do so (3) 481 voluntarily and must agree in advance to the specific deductions 482 made from gross wages pursuant to this section and to all other 483 financial arrangements or benefits resulting from participation in 484 the employment.

485 The Department of Corrections shall develop rules and (4)486 regulations to meet the criteria established by the Bureau of 487 Justice Assistance under the Prison Industry Enhancement 488 Certification Program.

489 SECTION 25. This act shall take effect and be in force from 490 and after July 1, 2022.

H. B. No. 863 ~ OFFICIAL ~ 22/HR12/R1694 ST: "Mississippi Prison Industries Act of PAGE 20 (OM\AM) 1990"; bring forward for the purposes of possible amendment.