

By: Senator(s) McCaughn, Whaley, Younger

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2007

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 75-29-601 AND 75-29-603, MISSISSIPPI
 2 CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL HONEY FOR
 3 PURPOSES OF LABELING REQUIREMENTS ENFORCED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
 4 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE LABEL OF ANY
 5 PRODUCT CONSISTING OF HONEY AND SWEETENER SHALL INCLUDE ALL
 6 INGREDIENTS BY WEIGHT, TO PROVIDE THAT ALL SUBSTANCES ADDED TO
 7 HONEY TO ALTER THE FLAVOR SHALL BE INCLUDED ON THE LABEL AND TO
 8 PROVIDE THAT ANY LAB-GROWN HONEY SHALL NOT BE LABELED AS HONEY;
 9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 75-29-601, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 12 amended as follows:

13 75-29-601. (1) For purposes of this article, "honey" shall
 14 mean the sweet, syrupy substance produced by honey bees from the
 15 nectar of plants (including honeydew) which the bees collect,
 16 transform, deposit, dehydrate and store, ripened and matured in
 17 the honeycombs. The consistency can be fluid, viscous, or partly
 18 to entirely crystallized. The flavor and aroma vary but are
 19 derived from the plant origin. Pure honey may not contain any
 20 additional food ingredients, including food additives. This



21 definition shall include the Commercial Item Description (CID)
22 authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

23 (* * *2) (a) Every container of honey or honey products
24 sold, offered or exposed for sale, by an individual, firm,
25 organization or corporation in the State of Mississippi shall have
26 on the outside of each container a paper label, permanent type
27 stamped imprint or embossed material on the container itself,
28 plainly printed in the English language truly certifying the net
29 contents of the container, the name, brand, name and address of
30 the person or processor offering such honey or honey products for
31 sale, and a true statement of the contents contained therein.

32 (b) **Adulterated or artificial honey.** Any product
33 consisting of honey and a sweetener cannot be labeled as "honey."
34 If any sweetener has been added to pure honey so as to increase
35 its bulk or weight, reduce its quality or strength, or make it
36 appear to be better or of greater value than it is, it shall be
37 deemed adulterated or artificial.

38 (c) For a food consisting of honey and a sweetener, the
39 label shall, among other information, include the following: All
40 ingredients in descending order of predominance by weight: for
41 example, "blend of honey and corn syrup," if the food has more
42 honey than corn syrup. (Conversely, "blend of corn syrup and
43 honey," if the food has more corn syrup than honey).

44 (d) **Value added honey products (flavored or infused**
45 **honey).** All substances added to honey or honey products which



46 enhance or alter the flavor shall be included on the label in the
47 same size font as the word "honey." The label shall include the
48 common or usual name of each ingredient in the ingredient
49 statement in descending order of predominance by weight.

50 (e) Lab-grown honey. Any product outside the
51 definition of honey shall not be considered honey and shall not be
52 labeled as such.

53 (* * *3) It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm,
54 organization or corporation to label and/or sell, offer for sale
55 or expose for sale at the retail level of trade any product as
56 " * * * honey" that does not meet the minimum requirements
57 established by this section and by the Mississippi Department of
58 Agriculture and Commerce. * * *

59 (* * *4) It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer or
60 distributor of honey or honey products to use a fictitious name or
61 address on the container label required herein.

62 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-29-603, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
63 amended as follows:

64 75-29-603. (1) The Mississippi Department of Agriculture
65 and Commerce is hereby charged with the responsibility of
66 enforcing this article, including the provisions of Section
67 75-29-601, Mississippi Code of 1972, and the Commissioner of
68 Agriculture and Commerce or his representative shall be furnished
69 samples of honey or honey products from the individual, firm,



70 organization or corporation, upon request, and shall have such
71 products analyzed by the State Chemist.

72 (2) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is
73 authorized, in his discretion, to issue an order to stop the sale
74 or distribution of any honey or honey products found to be in
75 violation of this article, including the provisions of Section
76 75-29-601, Mississippi Code of 1972. Upon written notice by the
77 commissioner to the manufacturer or distributor of the honey or
78 honey products sold in violation of this article, including the
79 provisions of Section 75-29-601, such honey or honey products
80 shall be picked up by the manufacturer or distributor of such
81 products and the buyer of the honey or honey products sold in
82 violation of this article, including the provisions of Section
83 75-29-601, shall be refunded the purchase price by the
84 manufacturer or distributor.

85 (3) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce of the
86 State of Mississippi is hereby authorized and empowered, in his
87 discretion, to make and promulgate rules and regulations as may be
88 necessary to carry out the provisions of this article, including
89 the provisions of Section 75-29-601.

90 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after July 1, 2022.

