

By: Senator(s) McCaughn, Whaley, Younger,
Hill, Moran

To: Agriculture

SENATE BILL NO. 2007
(As Sent to Governor)

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. "Honey" may not contain any
20 additional food ingredients, including food additives. Every
21 container of honey or honey products sold, offered or exposed for



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

30 (2) **Adulterated or artificial honey.** Any product consisting
31 of honey and a sweetener cannot be labeled as "honey." If any
32 sweetener has been added to honey, it shall be deemed adulterated
33 or artificial. For a honey product consisting of honey and a
34 sweetener, the label shall, among other information, include the
35 following: All ingredients in descending order of predominance by
36 weight: for example, "blend of honey and corn syrup," if the
37 honey product has more honey than corn syrup. (Conversely, "blend
38 of corn syrup and honey," if the honey product has more corn syrup
39 than honey).

40 (3) **Value added honey products (flavored or infused honey).**
41 All substances added to honey or honey products which enhance or
42 alter the flavor shall be included on the label in the same size
43 font as the word "honey." The label shall include the common or
44 usual name of each ingredient in the ingredient statement in
45 descending order of predominance by weight.



46 (4) Lab-grown honey. Any product outside the definition of
47 honey shall not be considered honey and shall not be labeled as
48 such.

49 (* * *5) It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm,
50 organization or corporation to label and/or sell, offer for sale
51 or expose for sale at the retail level of trade any product as
52 " * * * honey" that does not meet the minimum requirements
53 established by subsection (1) of this section and by the
54 Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. * * *

55 (* * *6) It shall be unlawful for any manufacturer or
56 distributor of honey or honey products to use a fictitious name or
57 address on the container label required herein.

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

60 75-29-603. (1) The Mississippi Department of Agriculture
61 and Commerce is hereby charged with the responsibility of
62 enforcing this article, including the provisions of Section
63 75-29-601, Mississippi Code of 1972, and the Commissioner of
64 Agriculture and Commerce or his representative shall be furnished
65 samples of honey or honey products from the individual, firm,
66 organization or corporation, upon request, and shall have such
67 products analyzed by the State Chemist.

68 (2) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce is
69 authorized, in his discretion, to issue an order to stop the sale
70 or distribution of any honey or honey products found to be in



71 violation of this article, including the provisions of Section
72 75-29-601, Mississippi Code of 1972. Upon written notice by the
73 commissioner to the manufacturer or distributor of the honey or
74 honey products sold in violation of this article, including the
75 provisions of Section 75-29-601, such honey or honey products
76 shall be picked up by the manufacturer or distributor of such
77 products and the buyer of the honey or honey products sold in
78 violation of this article, including the provisions of Section
79 75-29-601, shall be refunded the purchase price by the
80 manufacturer or distributor.

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

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

