

By: Senator(s) Turner-Ford

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2521

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 29-1-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY THAT THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE IS AUTHORIZED TO
3 CONTRACT WITH A VENDOR TO CONDUCT THE ONLINE AUCTION OF
4 TAX-FORFEITED PUBLIC LAND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 29-1-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 29-1-37 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
9 of this section, any person desiring to purchase any
10 state-forfeited tax land shall make application in writing to the
11 Secretary of State for the purchase of the land, and shall state
12 in the application:

13 (a) A correct description of the land sought to be
14 purchased.

15 (b) The name of the former owner and the name of the
16 person to whom the land was assessed at the time of the tax sale,
17 and the post office address of the former owner and the post
18 office address of the person to whom the land was assessed at the
19 time of the sale, if known to the applicant.



20 (c) Whether or not the land is occupied at the date of
21 the filing of such application, and the name of the person
22 occupying the land, if any.

23 (d) The nature and value of the improvements on the
24 land.

25 (e) The approximate quantity of the merchantable timber
26 on the land, if any.

27 (f) Any other special information as the Secretary of
28 State, with the approval of the Governor, may require.

29 Each application shall be signed by the applicant and shall
30 contain a declaration that the statements and information
31 submitted in the application are true and correct and are made
32 under penalty of perjury. The Secretary of State may require any
33 additional information with reference to the value of the lands,
34 the nature and condition of the buildings and improvements on the
35 lands, and the value of the timber on the lands as he may deem
36 necessary. The applications shall be filed by the Secretary of
37 State in the order in which they are received. Each application
38 shall be given a serial number and shall be entered on a record
39 book on the day it is received. The record book shall show the
40 name of the applicant, the serial number of the application, and
41 the county in which the property is situated.

42 (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this
43 section, the Secretary of State, with the approval of the
44 Governor, may dispose of any state-forfeited tax land by sealed



45 bids after three (3) weeks' advertisement in a newspaper in the
46 county in which the land is located.

47 (3) The Secretary of State may sell state-forfeited tax land
48 by online auction, and is authorized to contract with a qualified
49 vendor to conduct the online auction of state-forfeited land. The
50 Secretary of State may establish procedures and adopt
51 administrative rules for the sale of state-forfeited tax land by
52 online auction.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2022.

