Adopted COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO

Senate Bill No. 2479

BY: Committee

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

79 SECTION 1. The following shall be codified as Section 80 75-46-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

81 <u>75-46-1.</u> This chapter shall be known as the "Mississippi
 82 Grain Indemnity Act."

83 SECTION 2. The following shall be codified as Section
84 75-46-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:

85 <u>75-46-3.</u> As used in this act, the following terms shall have 86 the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the context clearly 87 requires otherwise: 88 (a) "Board" means the Mississippi Grain Indemnity Trust89 Fund Board.

90 (b) "Claimant" means a producer who:
91 (i) Has suffered either a "contract loss" or
92 "storage loss" as defined herein; and

93 (ii) Has a claim that has been determined by the
94 board to meet all requirements of this chapter and any rules
95 issued by the board under this chapter.

96 (c) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of
97 Agriculture and Commerce for the State of Mississippi or his
98 designee.

99 (d) "Contract loss" means a loss to a claimant when a 100 failed first purchaser licensee has not fully paid the claimant 101 for grain sold to the licensee under any type of contract.

102 (e) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of103 Agriculture and Commerce.

104 (f) "Failed" or "failure" means:

105 (i) Inability of a first purchaser licensee to106 satisfy all obligations due to a claimant;

107 (ii) A declaration of insolvency of a first 108 purchaser licensee by the licensee or by the commissioner; 109 (iii) Nonpayment of a first purchaser licensee's 110 debts in the ordinary course of business unless there is a good 111 faith dispute regarding the legitimacy of the debt;

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112 (iv) Revocation or suspension of the first 113 purchaser licensee's license by the State of Mississippi or the United States Department of Agriculture, if the licensee has 114 outstanding indebtedness owed to claimants; 115 116 (v) Voluntary surrender of a first purchaser 117 licensee's license to the State of Mississippi or the United States Department of Agriculture, if the licensee has outstanding 118 119 indebtedness owed to claimants; or 120 (vi) Insolvency, or nonvoluntary or voluntary 121 bankruptcy of a first purchaser licensee. 122 (q) "First purchaser licensee" means an entity that is 123 the first entity to purchase grain or is paid to store grain 124 produced in Mississippi from producers and is: 125 Licensed by the State of Mississippi to store (i) grain under Chapter 44, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972; 126 127 (ii) Licensed by the State of Mississippi to act 128 as a grain dealer under Chapter 45, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 129 1972; or 130 (iii) Licensed by the United States under the 131 United States Warehouse Act to store grain. 132 (h) "Fund" means the Mississippi Grain Indemnity Trust 133 Fund. 134 "Grain" means whole kernel corn for all purposes, (i) 135 grain sorghum, oats, soybeans and wheat. Grain does not include 136 sweet corn, popcorn and any other corn for human consumption.

22/HR12/SB2479A.J PAGE 3 (DJ/AM) 137 (j) "Mississippi Grain Indemnity Trust Fund" means the138 fund established as provided in this chapter.

139 (k) "Mississippi Grain Indemnity Trust Fund Board"140 means the board established under Section 75-46-5.

141 (1) "Person" means a natural person, trust,142 partnership, corporation or any other business entity.

143 (m) "Producer" means a person that is:

144 (i) An owner of land, a tenant on a farm, or an145 operator of a farm; and

(ii) Receives from a first purchaser licensee
proceeds from the sale of grain produced by the owner, tenant, or
operator.

(n) "Storage loss" means a loss to a claimant when a failed first purchaser licensee has not fully satisfied the licensee's storage obligations to the claimant, less any allowable charges that have not been paid by the claimant.

153 SECTION 3. The following shall be codified as Section 154 75-46-5, Mississippi Code of 1972:

155 <u>75-46-5.</u> (1) (a) There is hereby created the Mississippi 156 Grain Indemnity Board, which is established for the purposes of 157 providing money to pay agricultural producers for contract losses 158 due to a failure of a grain dealer licensed by the State of 159 Mississippi under Chapter 45, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972, 160 and for contract and storage losses due to the failure of a grain 161 warehouse operator licensed by the State of Mississippi under

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162 Chapter 44, Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972, or by the United 163 States Department of Agriculture under the United States Warehouse 164 Act. The board shall consist of: 165 (i) The commissioner who shall be the chairperson 166 of the board; 167 (ii) Two (2) members selected by the President of 168 the Mississippi Farm Bureau; 169 Two (2) members selected by the President of (iii) 170 the Delta Council; and 171 (iv) Two (2) members selected at-large by the 172 commissioner who shall be active Mississippi grain farmers. 173 Members of the initial board shall be appointed as (b) 174 follows: 175 The Delta Council shall appoint members for (i) 176 terms of one (1) and three (3) years; 177 (ii) Mississippi Farm Bureau shall appoint members 178 for two (2) and four (4) years; and The commissioner shall appoint members for 179 (iii) 180 one (1) and three (3) years. Following the initial board, subsequent members appointed to 181 182 the board shall serve a term of four (4) years with staggered 183 expiration dates. Members of the board shall, while serving on 184 business of the board, be entitled to receive as compensation a 185 per diem, as provided by law, in addition to any actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the official 186

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187 duties of the board. The commissioner may call a meeting of the 188 board upon reasonable notice to the board members.

(2) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Grain Indemnity Trust Fund." Funds collected by or appropriated to the board shall be held in trust by the State Treasurer for use and benefit of the board, only to pay claimants and costs for the administration of this chapter. Claimants shall be accorded rights under this act. The fund shall consist of:

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(a) Money collected under this chapter;

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(b) Interest earned on any money in the fund;

198 (c) Any funds appropriated by the Legislature or any199 other public or private source; and

(d) Any bond proceeds or other financial obligation in favor of the commissioner as provided in Sections 75-44-29 and 75-45-305.

(3) Amounts in the fund may be invested and reinvested at the discretion of the State Treasurer. Interest from these investments shall be deposited in the fund and shall be available for the same purposes as other monies deposited in the fund. The monies in the fund shall not be available for any purpose other than those specified in subsection (2) of this section.

(4) The fund shall operate on a fiscal year basis of July 1
to June 30. The board may accept and expend funds deposited into
the fund and funds not expended at the end of the fiscal year

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212 shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any investment 213 earnings or interest earned on such accounts shall be deposited to 214 the credit of the fund.

(5) A producer's decision to participate in the trust fund and program described herein is voluntary.

217 SECTION 4. The following shall be codified as Section 218 75-46-7, Mississippi Code of 1972:

219 <u>75-46-7.</u> (1) The fund shall be administered by the board. 220 All payments made to claimants under this chapter may only be made 221 with board approval, and the board shall provide advice to the 222 commissioner on the day-to-day operation of the fund. The board 223 shall have the authority to contract with a third party to:

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(a) Administer payments;

(b) Handle the accounting functions, including, but not limited to, financial reviews or audits, and financial filings or matters; and

(c) Any other matters the board deems appropriate.
(2) The commissioner shall be responsible for the day-to-day
operation of the fund including the disbursement of payments
approved by the board under subsection (1) of this section.
Disbursements are allowed without specific appropriation by the
Legislature.

234 SECTION 5. The following shall be codified as Section 235 75-46-9, Mississippi Code of 1972:

22/HR12/SB2479A.J PAGE 7 (DJ/AM) 236 <u>75-46-9.</u> Beginning on July 1, 2022, producers of grain shall 237 be charged an assessment equal to two-tenths percent (0.2%) of the 238 price on all marketed grain that is sold to a first purchaser 239 licensee.

240 SECTION 6. The following shall be codified as Section 241 75-46-11, Mississippi Code of 1972:

242 75-46-11. Assessments shall be collected by the first 243 purchaser licensee and by any agent or representative of the 244 The first purchaser licensee shall deduct the licensee. 245 assessment from the purchase price of the grain and shall document 246 the amount of the assessment that was deducted on an invoice 247 provided to the producer. The first purchaser licensee shall 248 submit monthly assessments to the department by the twentieth day 249 of the following month.

250 SECTION 7. The following shall be codified as Section 251 75-46-13, Mississippi Code of 1972:

252 <u>75-46-13.</u> (1) Assessments shall be collected when the board 253 has determined and announced that the amount in the fund is less 254 than Eighteen Million Dollars (\$18,000,000.00). Assessments shall 255 be required to be collected and submitted until the board 256 determines that the amount in the fund is Twenty Million Dollars 257 (\$20,000,000.00).

(2) If the amount in the fund is less than Eighteen Million
Dollars (\$18,000,000.00) or the board has determined that the
failure of a first purchaser licensee will likely result in the

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issuance of payments to claimants that will reduce the amount in the fund to less than Eighteen Million Dollars (\$18,000,000.00) at the end of the current fiscal year, assessments shall be required beginning July 1 of the following fiscal year.

(3) If the amount in the fund exceeds Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) at any time during a fiscal year when assessments are being collected, assessments shall continue until the end of such fiscal year without regard to the maximum amount authorized to be in the fund.

270 SECTION 8. The following shall be codified as Section 271 75-46-15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

272 <u>75-46-15.</u> (1) First purchaser licensees shall maintain a
273 ledger of all assessments collected by the licensee that specifies
274 the date of the collection, from whom the assessment was
275 collected, and the amount of the assessment collected.

276 (2) At the request of the board, first purchaser licensees 277 shall make ledgers and related records available to the 278 commissioner or a designee of the commissioner. The commissioner 279 shall only disclose information obtained from such ledgers and 280 related records to the board, employees of the office of the 281 commissioner, law enforcement officials of the State of 282 Mississippi, law enforcement officials of the United States, as 283 directed by any court order, and as required by the Mississippi 284 Public Records Act of 1983.

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285 SECTION 9. The following shall be codified as Section 286 75-46-17, Mississippi Code of 1972:

287 75-46-17. (1) Participation in the fund is voluntary. 288 During any fiscal year in which assessments are collected under 289 this chapter, a producer who does not desire to participate in the 290 fund shall notify the commissioner by the preceding June 1 of such 291 year that the producer has opted out of the fund by submission of 292 a written notification on a form provided by the commissioner. 293 The election to opt-out shall be effective for only one (1) crop 294 year. A producer who opts out of the fund shall not be eligible 295 to receive any payment with respect to grain produced during such crop year for a contract loss or storage loss resulting from the 296 297 failure of a first purchaser licensee.

(2) A producer who opts out of the fund has the obligation to notify any first purchaser licensee of the election to opt out of the fund and the licensee may require the producer to provide a copy of the form referenced in subsection (1) of this section.

302 (3) If an assessment is collected by a first purchaser 303 licensee from a producer who has opted out of the fund, the 304 producer may obtain a refund of the amount paid to the 305 commissioner in the manner established by the board.

306 SECTION 10. The following shall be codified as Section 307 75-46-19, Mississippi Code of 1972:

308 <u>75-46-19.</u> The commissioner shall be responsible for
 309 determining when a first purchaser licensee has failed. Upon

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310 making such a determination, the commissioner shall issue a legal 311 notice in a paper of general circulation once a week for two (2) 312 consecutive weeks in the county in which the first purchaser 313 licensee operates setting forth the name of the failed first 314 purchaser licensee and details on how a producer may file a claim 315 for a payment from the fund. The commissioner shall take any 316 other action the commissioner deems to be appropriate to provide 317 notice to affected producers.

318 **SECTION 11.** The following shall be codified as Section 319 75-46-21, Mississippi Code of 1972:

320 <u>75-46-21.</u> (1) The commissioner shall issue rules the 321 commissioner determines to be necessary to provide for a simple 322 and timely process to receive and adjudicate claims submitted in 323 response to the failure of a first purchaser licensee. These 324 rules shall include requirements that provide:

325 (a) A claim must be on a form prescribed by the326 commissioner;

327 (b) A claim must be submitted not later than ninety
328 (90) days after the announcement made by the commissioner under
329 Section 75-46-19 of this act;

(c) A copy of any written agreement for the sale of grain to the failed first purchaser licensee by the producer must be included with the submitted form;

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(d) For filing of an affidavit under penalty of perjury

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334 setting forth the terms and conditions of any oral contract for 335 the sale of grain to the failed first purchaser licensee by the 336 producer; and

(e) A copy of any warehouse receipt, scale ticket or other similar document showing the delivery of grain by the producer to the failed first purchaser licensee must be included with the claim.

341 (2) The commissioner may extend the time for filing a claim 342 upon a finding that extenuating circumstances exist that warrant 343 an extension.

344 SECTION 12. The following shall be codified as Section 345 75-46-23, Mississippi Code of 1972:

346 75-46-23. (1) All claims submitted to the commissioner 347 shall be reviewed by commissioner or designees of the commissioner. The commissioner or the designees shall make a 348 349 preliminary determination regarding the eligibility for payment 350 from the fund. If the preliminary determination provides that 351 less than the full amount of the claimed loss should be paid, the 352 determination shall set forth an explanation of why the lesser 353 amount, if any, should be paid. The preliminary determination 354 shall be provided to the board for a final determination of 355 eligibility for payment from the fund.

356 (2) The board or the commissioner may request from a 357 claimant additional information it determines necessary to 358 adjudicate the claim and may provide an opportunity for the

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359 claimant to provide oral testimony to the board or to a designee 360 of the board.

361 (3) If a claim is not approved for the full amount, the 362 board shall provide a written explanation to the claimant setting 363 forth the basis for the final determination of the eligible amount 364 of the claim.

365 (4) Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the final 366 determination in which a claim has been denied in whole or only 367 partially approved, claimant may file with the board a request for 368 reconsideration of the claim.

369 (5) A claimant that does not agree with the determination of the board issued after reconsideration of the final determination 370 371 may seek review of the determination issued by the board after its 372 reconsideration of the final determination by filing an appeal 373 with the circuit court located in the county of the producer's 374 residence. The circuit court shall render a decision based on the 375 administrative record prepared by the commissioner without a trial 376 by jury. The circuit court's decision may then be appealed to the 377 Mississippi Supreme Court. Any such appeal to circuit court or to 378 the Supreme Court shall be in accordance with existing laws and 379 regulations governing such appeals.

(6) (a) The department shall have subpoena power for
witnesses to attend hearings and for production of documents for
any and all proceedings under the department's jurisdiction. The

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383 subpoenas shall be enforced by the chancery court of the residence 384 of the witness.

385 The department shall have the authority to make (b) 386 application for administrative inspection warrants and 387 administrative search warrants for any and all proceedings under 388 the department's jurisdiction. A judge or any state court of 389 record, or any justice court judge within his jurisdiction, and 390 upon proper oath or affirmation showing probable cause, may issue 391 warrants for the purpose of conducting administrative inspections 392 for the department. For purposes of the issuance of 393 administrative inspection or search warrants, probable cause 394 exists upon showing a valid public interest in the effective 395 enforcement of matters under the department's jurisdiction. An 396 administrative search warrant shall issue only upon an affidavit 397 of a person having knowledge or information of the facts alleged, 398 sworn to before the judge or justice court judge and establishing 399 that the grounds for the application exist or that there is 400 probable cause to believe they exist. The judge shall issue a 401 warrant identifying the area, premises, building or conveyance to 402 be searched, the purpose of the search, and, if appropriate, the 403 type of property to be searched. When authorized by an 404 administrative inspection or search warrant issued, an officer or 405 employee of the department, upon presenting the warrant and 406 appropriate credentials to the owner, operator, or agent in

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407 charge, may enter the premises for the purpose of conducting an 408 administrative inspection.

409 SECTION 13. The following shall be codified as Section 410 75-46-25, Mississippi Code of 1972:

75-46-25. (1) Subject to Section 75-46-27, claims for 411 412 storage losses shall be paid at one hundred percent (100%) of the 413 amount of loss of the claimant less any amount received by the 414 claimant from any other source. The value of the grain subject to 415 the claim shall be the market price of the grain as determined by the board as of the date of failure of the first purchaser 416 417 licensee. The board may adjust the value of the grain subject to 418 the claim if there is sufficient evidence on a warehouse receipt, 419 scale ticket or other similar document showing the quality of the 420 grain.

421 Subject to Section 75-46-27, claims for contract (2)(a) 422 losses shall be paid at one hundred percent(100%) of the amount of 423 loss of the claimant less any amount received by the claimant from 424 any other source including the sale of the grain to another 425 entity. The board shall use the purchase price set forth in the 426 contract for sale to determine the amount of loss and if purchase 427 price is not clearly set forth in the contract, the board shall 428 establish the price of grain to be used to determine the amount of 429 the loss taking into account normal marketing practices in the 430 area in which the first purchaser licensee conducted business.

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(b) A claim for a contract loss shall not be approved by the board if the claimant engaged in conduct or practices that differ from generally accepted marketing practices within the grain industry to an extent the claimant's actions have substantially contributed to the claimant's loss.

(c) A failed first purchaser licensee may not file a claim for payment from the fund for any loss associated with a grain warehouse owned in whole or in part by the licensee or an entity that is a grain dealer owned in whole or in part by the licensee.

(d) Payments from the fund shall be available for
storage and contract losses incurred with respect to crops
produced in the 2022 and subsequent crop years.

444 **SECTION 14.** The following shall be codified as Section 445 75-46-27, Mississippi Code of 1972:

446 <u>75-46-27.</u> If the total amount of eligible claims exceeds the 447 amount of funds available to the board from the fund, the board 448 shall make initial payments on a pro rata basis. Assessments 449 subsequently collected and submitted to the fund shall not be used 450 to make an additional payment for prior payments made at less than 451 the full amount.

452 **SECTION 15.** The following shall be codified as Section 453 75-46-29, Mississippi Code of 1972:

454 <u>75-46-29.</u> The failure of a first purchaser licensee to 455 timely collect and submit assessments required by Section 75-46-11

22/HR12/SB2479A.J PAGE 16 (DJ/AM) 456 of this act shall be basis for the commissioner to revoke a 457 license issued to the licensee under Sections 75-44-23 and 458 75-45-309.

459 **SECTION 16.** The following shall be codified as Section 460 75-46-31, Mississippi Code of 1972:

461 75-46-31. The commissioner shall establish a toll-free 462 hotline and other information collection processes for the 463 purposes of receiving information concerning the failure of a 464 first purchaser licensee to make timely payments for the purchase 465 of grain and information concerning any suspected fraudulent 466 activity of a first purchaser licensee. Upon receipt of 467 information from the hotline, the commissioner shall take such 468 action as the commissioner determines to be appropriate including 469 referral of the matter to the Attorney General. Information 470 received through the hotline shall not be subject to disclosure to 471 the public except as determined appropriate by the commissioner.

472 SECTION 17. The following shall be codified as Section
473 75-46-33, Mississippi Code of 1972:

474 <u>75-46-33.</u> All the board's books, records, accounts, and 475 other papers shall be subject to inspection, copying and audit by 476 the Office of the State Auditor at any time.

477 SECTION 18. The following shall be codified as Section
478 75-46-35, Mississippi Code of 1972:

479 <u>75-46-35.</u> The board may adopt any and all rules and
480 regulations deemed necessary or desirable by the board to carry

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out the powers and duties of the board, including, but not limited to, the collection and receipt of assessments, the procedure for adjudicating the claims of loss by the producers, the refunding of assessment to producers and the subrogation of procedures' claims against a warehouse or dealer in return for payment from the trust fund.

487 **SECTION 19.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 488 and after July 1, 2022, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2022.

Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and

inserting in lieu thereof the following:

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "MISSISSIPPI GRAIN INDEMNITY ACT"; TO 2 CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO NAME THE 3 ACT AS SUCH; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 4 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR DEFINITIONS TO TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE ACT; 5 TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO 6 ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI GRAIN INDEMNITY BOARD, PROVIDE FOR ITS 7 COMPOSITION AND THE INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENT TERMS OF BOARD MEMBERS; 8 TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI GRAIN INDEMNITY TRUST FUND AS A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY; TO STIPULATE THE USES OF 9 MONIES DEPOSITED INTO THE FUND; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-7, 10 11 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUND SHALL BE 12 ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD, WHICH SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT 13 WITH A THIRD PARTY TO ADMINISTER PAYMENTS AND HANDLE ALL 14 ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS RELATED TO THE FUND; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 15 75-46-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE GRAIN PRODUCERS TO 16 PAY AN ASSESSMENT ON ALL MARKETED GRAIN SOLD TO A FIRST PURCHASER 17 LICENSEE BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2022; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 18 75-46-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE ASSESSMENT TO BE COLLECTED BY THE FIRST PURCHASER LICENSEE OR ANY AGENT OR 19 20 REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LICENSEE, WHO SHALL DEDUCT SUCH ASSESSMENT 21 FROM THE PURCHASE PRICE; TO ESTABLISH THE DATE BY WHICH THE 22 LICENSEES MUST SUBMIT ASSESSMENTS TO THE BOARD FOLLOWING ITS 23 COLLECTION; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 24 1972, TO DESIGNATE THE ASSESSMENT COLLECTION PERIOD AND ESTABLISH 25 AMOUNTS FOR THRESHOLD TRUST FUND BALANCES; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 26 75-46-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE FIRST PURCHASER 27 LICENSEES TO MAINTAIN A LEDGER OF ALL ASSESSMENTS COLLECTED, WHICH 28 SUCH RECORDS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD UPON REQUEST; TO

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29 LIMIT THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE'S AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE LEDGER OF ASSESSMENTS; TO 30 31 CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE 32 THAT PARTICIPATION IN THE FUND IS VOLUNTARY; TO REQUIRE 33 NONPARTICIPANTS TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER BY THE PRECEDING JUNE 1 34 OF SUCH YEAR THAT THE PRODUCER HAS OPTED OUT; TO PROVIDE THAT 35 NONPARTICIPATION IN THE FUND DISQUALIFIES SUCH INDIVIDUALS FROM 36 RECEIPT OF ANY PAYMENT FOR A CONTRACT OR STORAGE LOSS OF GRAIN 37 PRODUCED DURING SUCH CROP DUE TO THE FAILURE OF A FIRST PURCHASER 38 LICENSEE; TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL NOTICE TO BE GIVEN TO THE FIRST 39 PURCHASER LICENSEE; TO ALLOW A REFUND OF ASSESSMENTS PAID TO 40 PRODUCERS WHO OPT OUT OF THE FUND; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-19, 41 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSIONER SHALL 42 DETERMINE WHEN A FIRST PURCHASER LICENSEE HAS FAILED; TO PRESCRIBE 43 PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMMISSIONER UPON THE MAKING OF 44 SUCH DETERMINATION OF FAILURE; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-21, 45 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PRESCRIBE THE PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED 46 FOR THE TIMELY ADJUDICATION OF CLAIMS ALLEGING FAILURE OF FIRST 47 PURCHASER LICENSEES; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSIONER OR THE DESIGNEES TO MAKE 48 49 A PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT FROM THE 50 FUND RESULTING FROM SUBMITTED CLAIMS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD SHALL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION ON PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS; TO 51 52 AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO SEEK ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NECESSARY 53 TO ADJUDICATE THE CLAIM; TO PRESCRIBE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED 54 WHEN ONLY A PARTIAL PAYMENT OF CLAIM IS MADE; TO SPECIFY THE 55 TIMELINE FOR CERTAIN RESPONSES AND ACTIONS BY THE BOARD AND 56 CLAIMANT; TO PROVIDE CLAIMANTS WITH AN OPTION TO REQUEST A REVIEW 57 OF THE BOARD'S FINAL ADJUDICATION OF THE CLAIM; TO PROVIDE FOR 58 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES PROCESS FOR APPEALS OF THE BOARD'S FINAL 59 ADJUDICATION; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PRESCRIBE THE METHOD OF CALCULATING THE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS 60 61 FOR STORAGE OR CONTRACT LOSSES SUFFERED; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 62 75-46-27, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO MAKE 63 PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS ON A PRO RATA BASIS AT ANY TIME THE TOTAL 64 AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE CLAIMS EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE; 65 TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO 66 PROVIDE THE COMMISSIONER WITH THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE THE LICENSE 67 OF A FIRST PURCHASER LICENSEE FOR FAILURE TO TIMELY COLLECT AND 68 SUBMIT ASSESSMENTS TO THE BOARD; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-31, 69 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE COMMISSIONER TO ESTABLISH A TOLL-FREE HOTLINE AND OTHER INFORMATION COLLECTION PROCESSES FOR 70 71 THE PURPOSES OF RECEIVING INFORMATION ON LICENSEE FAILURE TO 72 PERFORM; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 75-46-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, 73 TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSPECTION OF THE BOARD'S RECORDS, ACCOUNTS AND 74 OTHER DOCUMENTS BY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR; TO CREATE NEW 75 SECTION 75-46-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD 76 TO ADOPT ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS DEEMED NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER 77 THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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