

By: Representative Ladner

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 770

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-56-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DIRECT
3 THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND STAFF SUCH
4 OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-56-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 57-56-1. (1) There is hereby created and established
9 the * * * Mississippi Office of Space and Technology, which office
10 shall be administered and staffed by the * * * Mississippi
11 Development Authority.

12 * * *

13 (* * *2) The * * * Mississippi Development Authority shall
14 have the following duties and responsibilities:

15 (a) Manage and control the Mississippi * * * Office of
16 Space and Technology, and recommend from time to time to the
17 Governor such utilization of space available * * * at the National
18 Aeronautics and Space Administration Stennis Space Center deemed



19 appropriate as having a direct impact on the transfer of
20 technology or commercial space activities;

21 (b) Establish a mechanism through which utilization of
22 available space within the center can best be determined to be in
23 the state's best interest, including leasing or subleasing;

24 (c) Provide an office for and maintain liaison
25 with * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center for a direct
26 interface * * * for * * * technology transfer and economic
27 development endeavors;

28 (d) Assist the Director of the University Research
29 Center to examine the potential for including the establishment at
30 or near * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center of university research
31 centers in engineering, science or technology in the strategy and
32 planning for any future research and development programs for the
33 state, such university centers to focus on areas of fundamental
34 research and technology that are scientifically promising and have
35 the potential to contribute to Mississippi's long-term economic
36 competitiveness and growth;

37 (e) Encourage and facilitate collaboration among state
38 and local governments, universities, the private sector,
39 particularly small business, and * * * the NASA Stennis Space
40 Center and other federal laboratories in order to assist in the
41 transfer of science and technology to the marketplace;

42 (f) Facilitate communication, coordination and
43 cooperation between state and local technology transfer



44 organizations and the Offices of Research and Technology
45 Applications of federal laboratories; and

46 (g) Prepare and submit quarterly to the Governor * * *
47 a report summarizing the activities performed by the
48 Mississippi * * * Office of Space and Technology.

49 (* * * 3) The Mississippi * * * Office of Space and
50 Technology shall have the following functions and duties:

51 (a) In order to ensure that Mississippi benefits from
52 and fully exploits scientific research and technology developed
53 at * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center and other federal
54 laboratories, participate with * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center
55 not only in generating new knowledge and understanding in advanced
56 technologies, but also in encouraging the swiftest possible
57 transfer of federally developed science and technology to the
58 private sector of the state;

59 (b) Be the conduit between and among * * * the NASA
60 Stennis Space Center and other federal laboratories and
61 consortiums, state and local governments, universities and the
62 private sector for the transfer of technology developed from
63 federal research and development efforts at * * * the NASA Stennis
64 Space Center;

65 (c) Provide state and local governments, universities
66 and the private sector with information on technology, expertise
67 and facilities available at * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center
68 and other federal laboratories;



69 (d) Identify areas of research and technology of
70 potential importance to long-term state economic competitiveness;

71 (e) Cooperate with and assist * * * the NASA Stennis
72 Space Center in broadening Mississippi's technology base by moving
73 new knowledge from the research laboratory into the development of
74 new products and processes;

75 (f) Provide a clearinghouse for requests received
76 at * * * the NASA Stennis Space Center for technical assistance
77 from state agencies, units of local governments, businesses,
78 industrial development organizations, not-for-profit organizations
79 including universities, federal agencies and laboratories and
80 other persons;

81 (g) Assist the private sector of Mississippi to
82 participate, where appropriate, in federal technology exchange
83 programs whereby scientists and engineers in the private sector
84 may take temporary assignments in federal laboratories, and
85 scientists and engineers in federal laboratories may take
86 temporary assignments in the private sector;

87 (h) When requested, assist * * * the NASA Stennis Space
88 Center, colleges or universities, businesses, not-for-profit
89 organizations, state agencies, local governments or regional
90 organizations to establish programs to stimulate research and to
91 encourage technology transfer in such areas as technology program
92 development, curriculum design, long-term research planning,
93 personnel needs projections and productivity assessments; and



94 (i) Encourage and participate in the establishment and
95 operation of centers at or near * * * the NASA Stennis Space
96 Center, which centers may be affiliated with any university or
97 other nonprofit institution, or any group thereof, that will have
98 as objectives:

99 (i) The enhancement of technological innovation
100 through the participation of individuals from federal
101 laboratories, industry, universities and other nonprofit
102 institutions, or any group thereof, in cooperative technological
103 innovation activities; and

104 (ii) The improvement of mechanisms for the
105 dissemination of scientific, engineering and technical information
106 among federal laboratories, universities, other nonprofit
107 institutions and industry.

108 (* * * 4) The public interest demands and the general
109 welfare requires this procedure so that the comprehensive state
110 policy on technology transfer may be implemented in the most
111 effective, efficient and economical manner.

112 (* * * 5) It shall be the duty of every department, agency,
113 office, institution and political subdivision of the State of
114 Mississippi, and the officers thereof, to cooperate with and
115 assist the Mississippi * * * Office of Space and Technology in
116 every reasonable way.

117 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
118 and after July 1, 2023.

