

By: Representative Rushing

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 984

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "LIBERTY FOR OUR AGRICULTURAL LAND
 2 ACT"; TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN COMPANIES OWNED, IN WHOLE OR IN
 3 PART, BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
 4 PARTY MAY NOT OWN, LEASE, POSSESS OR EXERCISE ANY CONTROL OVER
 5 MORE THAN 100 ACRES OF REAL ESTATE IN THIS STATE; TO PROVIDE THAT
 6 ANY DEED FOR ANY REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE EXCEEDING 100 ACRES IN
 7 WHICH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OR THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
 8 PARTY OR ITS MEMBERS ARE THE RECIPIENT IS DEEMED INVALID; TO AMEND
 9 SECTION 29-1-75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY THERETO;
 10 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 13 "Liberty for Our Agricultural Land Act."

14 **SECTION 2.** (1) Any company or development owned or
 15 controlled by a company that is owned, in whole or in part, by, or
 16 is a subsidiary of, a company that is owned by the People's
 17 Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party or whose
 18 principal place of business is located within the People's
 19 Republic of China may not own, lease, possess or exercise any
 20 control over more than one hundred (100) acres of real estate in
 21 this state.

22 (2) For purposes of this section:



23 (a) "Chinese Communist Party" includes all agencies,
24 institutions, and instrumentalities of the Chinese Communist
25 Party.

26 (b) "Company" or "development" means a sole
27 proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,
28 partnership, trust, venture, group, subgroup or any other entity
29 or organization, its subsidiary or affiliate that exists
30 for-profit-making purposes or to otherwise secure economic
31 advantage.

32 (c) "People's Republic of China" includes all agencies,
33 institutions, instrumentalities and political subdivisions of the
34 People's Republic of China.

35 (2) The People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist
36 Party and its members may not own real property in this state in
37 excess of the amount authorized under subsection (1) of this
38 section. A deed for any real estate conveyance exceeding the
39 amount authorized under subsection (1) of this section in which
40 the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party or
41 its members are the recipient is deemed invalid.

42 **SECTION 3.** Section 29-1-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
43 amended as follows:

44 29-1-75. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
45 and in Section 2 of this act, neither a corporation nor a
46 nonresident alien, nor any association of persons composed in
47 whole or in part of nonresident aliens, shall directly or



48 indirectly purchase or become the owner of any of the public
49 lands; and every patent issued in contravention hereof shall be
50 void.

51 (2) (a) A banking corporation owning such tax-forfeited
52 lands or holding a mortgage or deed of trust thereon at the time
53 of the sale to the state, and whose mortgage or deed of trust is
54 still in force and effect, may purchase such lands, regardless of
55 acreage, owned by it as aforesaid or on which it held a mortgage
56 or deed of trust. In the event of a purchase by such corporation
57 as a mortgagee, such lands shall be held for the benefit of the
58 mortgagor subject to all the terms and conditions of the mortgage
59 or deed of trust held by the purchasing banking corporation and,
60 upon payment of the debt secured by such mortgage or deed of
61 trust, together with interest and incidents, such banking
62 corporation shall in that event reconvey such lands to the
63 original mortgagor, his heirs or assigns.

64 (b) Any other nonbanking corporation may purchase lands
65 sold or forfeited to the state for delinquent taxes under any
66 section of Chapter 1, Title 29, specifically relating to the sale
67 of such tax-forfeited lands by the Secretary of State. A
68 nonbanking corporation purchasing land sold or forfeited to the
69 state shall be subject to the acreage limitations of Section
70 29-1-73.

71 (c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this
72 act, nonresident aliens may acquire and hold not to exceed three



73 hundred twenty (320) acres of public lands in this state for the
74 purpose of industrial development thereon, provided that such
75 nonresident alien was in ownership possession of such public land
76 before July 1, 2023. In addition, any nonresident alien may
77 acquire and hold not to exceed five (5) acres of public lands for
78 residential purposes. If any land acquired by a nonresident alien
79 for the purpose of industrial development ceases to be used for
80 industrial development, it shall escheat to the public body that
81 sold such land to the nonresident alien.

82 (3) This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2026.

83 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
84 and after July 1, 2023.

