

By: Senator(s) Moran, DeLano, Carter,  
Thompson, England, Hill, Seymour, Wiggins

To: Technology

SENATE BILL NO. 2727

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, including contracting authority, and  
17 recommend from time to time to the Governor such utilization of  
18 space available \* \* \* at the National Aeronautics and Space  
19 Administration Stennis Space Center deemed appropriate as having a



20 direct impact on the transfer of technology or commercial space  
21 activities;

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

