

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 363

BY: Committee

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 69-5-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 amended as follows:

17 69-5-31. (1) The Department of Agriculture and Commerce is
18 authorized to hire and designate area law enforcement officers on
19 a contractual basis to provide security and to enforce all laws of
20 the State of Mississippi on the Mississippi State Fairgrounds
21 Complex. All officers must have attended and satisfactorily
22 completed the training course required for law enforcement
23 officers at the Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy or an
24 equivalent facility. All officers must be current with this



25 certification. A complete record of all law enforcement training
26 of each employee will be maintained in each employee's record of
27 employment. Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture and
28 Commerce may enter into a contract with any certified law
29 enforcement officer to provide security to the Department of
30 Agriculture and Commerce with jurisdiction to enforce all laws of
31 the State of Mississippi on property known as the "Mississippi
32 State Fairgrounds Complex" and any and all of its outlying
33 buildings and property.

34 (2) (a) All officers while in performance of their duty on
35 the premises or at any of the facilities at the Mississippi State
36 Fairgrounds Complex under the direction or control of the
37 Department of Agriculture and Commerce and public property
38 immediately adjacent to such facilities shall:

39 (i) Be required to dress in uniforms prescribed by
40 the respective law enforcement agency by which he or she is
41 employed; and

42 (ii) Be authorized to carry weapons.

43 (b) Employees designated as officers shall be duly
44 sworn and vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests, and
45 shall exercise primarily the responsibilities of the prevention
46 and detection of crime, the apprehension of criminals, and the
47 enforcement of the ordinances and policies of the Department of
48 Agriculture and Commerce, a political subdivision of the State of
49 Mississippi. Employees designated as such officers shall be



50 considered law enforcement officers within the meaning of Section
51 45-6-3.

52 (3) The identities and personal information of the officers
53 under the authority of this section are confidential and shall not
54 be publicly disclosed by the department. All contract entered
55 under the authority of this section shall be exempt from
56 disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act, prescribed
57 under Section 25-61-1 et seq.

58 **SECTION 2.** Section 69-42-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
59 amended as follows:

60 69-42-1. (1) For the purposes of this section, the
61 following words shall have the meanings ascribed in this section
62 unless the context otherwise requires:

63 (a) "Agribusiness" means any agricultural,
64 aquacultural, horticultural, manufacturing, research and
65 development or processing enterprise or enterprises.

66 (b) "Farmer" means a resident of Mississippi who
67 engages or wishes to engage in the commercial production of crops
68 on land in Mississippi. The term shall include individuals,
69 partnerships and corporations.

70 (2) The Mississippi Development Authority shall develop and
71 implement a program to stimulate growth in the agricultural
72 industry for agribusiness concerns and farmers.

73 (3) The program developed and implemented by the Mississippi
74 Development Authority under this section shall:



75 (a) Increase the availability of financial assistance
76 available to agribusiness concerns and farmers;

77 (b) Provide incentives for agribusiness concerns and
78 farmers which will encourage growth in the Mississippi
79 agricultural industry;

80 (c) Assist new agribusiness concerns and farmers in
81 developing and implementing business plans;

82 (d) Develop methods for increasing markets for the
83 goods and services of agribusiness concerns and farmers;

84 (e) Work with public and private entities in
85 disseminating information about public and private programs that
86 benefit agribusiness concerns and farmers; and

87 (f) Identify sources of financial assistance available
88 to agribusiness concerns and farmers and assist agribusiness
89 concerns and farmers with the preparation of applications for
90 assistance from public and private sources.

91 * * *

92 **SECTION 3.** Section 69-46-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
93 amended as follows:

94 69-46-3. (1) There is created the Mississippi Land, Water
95 and Timber Resources Board, hereinafter referred to as "the
96 board," for the purpose of assisting Mississippi agricultural
97 industry in the development, marketing and distribution of
98 agricultural products.

99 (2) The board shall be composed of the following members:



100 (a) The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee,
101 or a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee designated by the
102 chairman, as a nonvoting member;

103 (b) The Chairman of the House of Representatives
104 Agriculture Committee or a member of the House of Representatives
105 Agriculture Committee designated by the chairman, as a nonvoting
106 member;

107 (c) The Chairman of the Senate Forestry Committee, or a
108 member of the Senate Forestry Committee designated by the
109 chairman, as a nonvoting member;

110 (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
111 Development Authority, or his designee;

112 (e) The Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
113 Agriculture and Commerce, or his designee;

114 (f) The President of the Mississippi Farm Bureau
115 Federation, or his designee;

116 (g) The Director of the Cooperative Extension Service
117 at Mississippi State University, or his designee;

118 (h) The Executive Director of the Agribusiness and
119 Natural Resource Development Center at Alcorn State University, or
120 his designee;

121 (i) The Director of the Agricultural Finance Division
122 of the Mississippi Development Authority, or his designee;



123 (j) The Director of the Agriculture Marketing Division
124 of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, or his
125 designee;

126 (k) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Forestry
127 Commission, or his designee; and

128 (1) Three (3) individuals appointed by the Governor who
129 are active producers of Mississippi land, water or timber
130 commodities. The Governor shall appoint one (1) such person from
131 each Supreme Court district.

132 (3) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Development
133 Authority and the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
134 Agriculture and Commerce shall serve as cochairmen of the board.

135 (4) The board shall meet at least once each calendar quarter
136 at the call of the cochairmen. A majority of the members of the
137 board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. An affirmative
138 vote of a majority of the members present and voting is required
139 in the adoption of any actions taken by the board. All members
140 must be notified, in writing, of all regular and special meetings
141 of the board, which notices must be mailed at least ten (10) days
142 before the dates of the meetings. All meetings shall take place
143 at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, or at a location to
144 be determined by the cochairmen. The board shall provide a copy
145 of the minutes of each of its meetings to the Chairman of the
146 Senate Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the House of
147 Representatives Agriculture Committee.



148 (5) Members of the board shall not receive compensation.
149 However, each member may be paid travel expenses and meals and
150 lodging expenses as provided in Section 25-3-41, for such expenses
151 incurred in furtherance of their duties. Travel expenses and
152 meals and lodging expenses and other necessary expenses incurred
153 by the board shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the
154 Mississippi Development Authority.

155 (6) In carrying out the provisions of the Mississippi Land,
156 Water and Timber Resources Act, the board may utilize the
157 services, facilities and personnel of all departments, agencies,
158 offices and institutions of the state, and all such departments,
159 agencies, offices and institutions shall cooperate with the board
160 in carrying out the provisions of such act.

161 **SECTION 4.** Sections 69-41-1, 69-41-3, 69-41-5, 69-41-7,
162 69-41-9, 69-41-11, 69-41-13 and 69-41-19, Mississippi Code of
163 1972, which are provisions establishing and governing the
164 administration of the "Mississippi Agribusiness Council Act of
165 1993," are repealed.

166 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
167 and after July 1, 2023.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-5-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXEMPT OR MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONAL IDENTIFYING
3 INFORMATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT;
4 TO AMEND SECTION 69-42-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE



5 REQUIREMENT FOR PRODUCTION OF ANNUAL REPORTS; TO AMEND SECTION
6 69-46-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL MEETING
7 VENUE FOR THE MISSISSIPPI LAND, WATER AND TIMBER RESOURCES BOARD
8 MEETINGS; TO AMEND SECTION 75-45-311, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
9 REPEAL SECTIONS 69-41-1, 69-41-3, 69-41-5, 69-41-7, 69-41-9,
10 69-41-11, 69-41-13 AND 69-41-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
11 ARE PROVISIONS ESTABLISHING AND GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
12 THE "MISSISSIPPI AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL ACT OF 1993"; AND FOR
13 RELATED PURPOSES.

