

By: Representative Bounds

To: Forestry

HOUSE BILL NO. 299

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 49-19-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION AND COUNTY FORESTERS  
3 WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE COMMISSION TO ELECTRONICALLY ACCEPT BIDS  
4 FOR TIMBER SALES; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 29-1-1, 31-7-13,  
5 49-19-3 AND 55-3-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF  
6 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 49-19-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 49-19-5. The State Forestry Commission is hereby authorized  
11 and empowered to acquire and dispose of property of all kinds in  
12 accordance with the provisions of Section 29-1-1, in order to  
13 discharge the duties as set forth in Section 49-19-3, and  
14 subsequent germane general laws of the State of Mississippi.

15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commission,  
16 and county foresters who are employed by the commission, is  
17 authorized to electronically accept bids for timber sales.

18 \* \* \* The commission is \* \* \* also authorized to sell, rent,  
19 lease, and dispose of any property acquired by the commission, all  
20 property to be sold or disposed of shall be sold or disposed of in



21 the manner provided by law for the sale or disposition of surplus  
22 property by other state agencies. Any funds received from the  
23 sale, rental or lease of any property herein authorized, to be  
24 acquired, shall be paid into the State Treasury to the credit of a  
25 special account, and the commission is hereby authorized to use  
26 this fund for the replacement, repairs, and upkeep of any property  
27 authorized to be acquired and owned under this section.

28 **SECTION 2.** Section 29-1-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
29 brought forward as follows:

30 29-1-1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsections  
31 (7), (8), (9) and (13) of this section, the title to all lands  
32 held by any agency of the State of Mississippi shall appear on all  
33 deeds and land records under the name of the "State of  
34 Mississippi." A deed may also recite the name of the agency for  
35 whose benefit and use the land is acquired, but the recital shall  
36 not be deemed or construed to be a limitation on the grant or an  
37 impairment of title held by the State of Mississippi. Use and  
38 possession of the land may be reassigned by act of the Legislature  
39 or by interagency conveyance where each agency has statutory  
40 authority to acquire and dispose of land. For the purpose of this  
41 section, the term "agency" shall be defined as set forth in  
42 Section 31-7-1(a). The provisions of this section shall not  
43 affect the authority of any agency to use any land held by the  
44 agency. No assets or property of the Public Employees' Retirement  
45 System of Mississippi shall be transferred in violation of Section



46 272A of the Mississippi Constitution of 1890. Each state agency  
47 shall inventory any state-held lands which are titled in the name  
48 of the agency. The agency shall execute quitclaim deeds and any  
49 other necessary documents to transfer the name and title of the  
50 property to the State of Mississippi. State agencies shall  
51 furnish to the Secretary of State certified copies of the  
52 quitclaim deeds and all other deeds whereby the state agency  
53 acquires or disposes of state-held land.

54 (2) The Secretary of State, under the general direction of  
55 the Governor and as authorized by law, shall sell and convey the  
56 public lands in the manner and on the terms provided herein for  
57 the several classes thereof; he shall perform all the  
58 administrative and executive duties appertaining to the selection,  
59 location, surveying, platting, listing, and registering these  
60 lands or otherwise concerning them; and he shall investigate the  
61 status of the various "percent" funds accrued and accruing to the  
62 state from the sale of lands by the United States, and shall  
63 collect and pay the funds into the Treasury in the manner provided  
64 by law. The Secretary of State, with the approval of the  
65 Governor, acting on behalf of the state, may accept gifts or  
66 donations of land to the State of Mississippi.

67 (3) In accordance with Sections 7-11-11 and 7-11-13, the  
68 Secretary of State shall be required to sign all conveyances of  
69 all state-held land. For purposes of this section, the term  
70 "conveyance" shall mean any sale or purchase of land by the State



71 of Mississippi for use by any agency, board or commission thereof.  
72 Failure to obtain legislative approval pursuant to subsection (4)  
73 of this section and the signature of the Secretary of State on any  
74 conveyance regarding the sale or purchase of lands for the state  
75 including any agency, board or commission thereof, shall render  
76 the attempted sale or purchase of the lands void. Nothing in this  
77 section shall be construed to authorize any state agency, board,  
78 commission or public official to convey any state-held land unless  
79 this authority is otherwise granted by law. The Secretary of  
80 State shall not withhold arbitrarily his signature from any  
81 purchase or sale authorized by the Mississippi State Legislature.  
82 Except for those lands forfeited to the state for the nonpayment  
83 of taxes, conveyed to another state agency or entity as provided  
84 in subsection (11) of this section or acquired by the Mississippi  
85 Transportation Commission under Section 65-1-123, no state-held  
86 land shall be sold for less than the fair market value as  
87 determined by two (2) professional appraisers selected by the  
88 State Department of Finance and Administration, who are certified  
89 general appraisers of the State of Mississippi. The proceeds from  
90 any sale by an agency, board, commission or public official of  
91 state-held lands shall be deposited into the State General Fund  
92 unless otherwise provided by law.

93 (4) Before any state-held land is sold to any individual or  
94 private entity, thirty (30) days' advance notice of the intended  
95 sale shall be provided by the Secretary of State to the State



96 Legislature and to all state agencies for the purpose of  
97 ascertaining whether an agency has a need for the land and for the  
98 purpose of ascertaining whether the sale of the land was  
99 authorized by law. If no agency of the state expresses in writing  
100 to the Secretary of State by the end of the thirty-day period a  
101 desire to use the land, then the Secretary of State, with the  
102 prior approval of the Mississippi Legislature to sell the  
103 state-held land, may offer the land for sale to any individual or  
104 private entity. Such notice to state agencies is given in aid of  
105 internal management of the real property inventory of the state,  
106 and this notice requirement shall not be applied to challenge or  
107 defeat any title heretofore or hereafter granted by the state  
108 under any law authorized by the Mississippi Legislature providing  
109 for the sale or disposal of property.

110 (5) A cultural resources survey may be performed on any  
111 state-held land before the disposition of the land if the  
112 Mississippi Department of Archives and History deems this survey  
113 necessary. The cost of the survey and any archaeological studies  
114 deemed necessary by the Mississippi Department of Archives and  
115 History shall be paid by the selling agency and recouped from the  
116 proceeds of the sale.

117 (6) Before any land may be purchased by the state for the  
118 benefit of any state agency, the Secretary of State, or his  
119 designee, shall search and examine all state land records to  
120 determine whether the state owns any land that may fit the



121 particular need of the agency. The Secretary of State, or his  
122 designee, shall notify the agency if it is determined that any  
123 state-held land is available for use by the agency. The agency  
124 shall determine if such land accommodates its needs and shall  
125 determine whether to make an official request to the proper  
126 authorities to have the use of the land.

127 (7) This section shall not apply to: (a) any lands  
128 purchased or acquired for construction and maintenance of highways  
129 or highway rights-of-way by the Mississippi Department of  
130 Transportation, or (b) any lands acquired by the state by  
131 forfeiture for nonpayment of ad valorem taxes and heretofore or  
132 hereafter sold under authority of any other section of Chapter 1,  
133 Title 29, specifically relating to tax-forfeited lands.

134 (8) This section shall not apply to any lands purchased  
135 solely by the use of federal funds or lands for which authority to  
136 transfer or dispose of these lands is governed by federal law or  
137 federal regulations insofar as the application of this section  
138 limits or impairs the ability of the Secretary of State to acquire  
139 or dispose of the land. However, any state agency acquiring or  
140 disposing of land exempted from the application of this section by  
141 this subsection shall furnish the Secretary of State certified  
142 copies of all deeds executed for those transfers or disposals.

143 (9) Any lands purchased by the Mississippi Major Economic  
144 Impact Authority for a "project" as defined in Section 57-75-5  
145 shall be excluded from the provisions of this section.



146           (10) The Secretary of State may recover from any agency,  
147 corporation, board, commission, entity or individual any cost that  
148 is incurred by his office for the record-keeping responsibilities  
149 regarding the sale or purchase of any state-held lands.

150           (11) Subsections (4), (5) and (6) of this section shall not  
151 apply to sales or purchases of land when the Legislature expressly  
152 authorizes or directs a state agency to sell, purchase or  
153 lease-purchase a specifically described property. However, when  
154 the Legislature authorizes a state agency to sell or otherwise  
155 convey specifically described real property to another state  
156 agency or other entity such as a county, municipality, economic  
157 development district created under Section 19-5-99 or similar  
158 entity, without providing that the conveyance may not be made for  
159 less than the fair market value of the property, then the state  
160 agency authorized to convey such property must make the following  
161 determinations before conveying the property:

162           (a) That the state agency or other entity to which the  
163 proposed conveyance is to be made has an immediate need for the  
164 property;

165           (b) That there are quantifiable benefits that will  
166 inure to the state agency or other entity to which the proposed  
167 conveyance is to be made which outweigh any quantifiable costs to  
168 the state agency authorized to make the conveyance; and

169           (c) That the state agency or other entity to which the  
170 proposed conveyance is to be made lacks available funds to pay



171 fair market value for the property. If the state agency  
172 authorized to convey such property fails to make such  
173 determinations, then it shall not convey the property for less  
174 than the fair market value of the property.

175 (12) This section shall not apply to the donation and  
176 conveyance of the Nanih Waiya State Park to the Mississippi Band  
177 of Choctaw Indians.

178 (13) This section shall not apply to any lands acquired,  
179 sold, or leased pursuant to Section 59-5-1 et seq.

180 **SECTION 3.** Section 31-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
181 brought forward as follows:

182 31-7-13. All agencies and governing authorities shall  
183 purchase their commodities and printing; contract for garbage  
184 collection or disposal; contract for solid waste collection or  
185 disposal; contract for sewage collection or disposal; contract for  
186 public construction; and contract for rentals as herein provided.

187 (a) **Bidding procedure for purchases not over \$5,000.00.**

188 Purchases which do not involve an expenditure of more than Five  
189 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), exclusive of freight or shipping  
190 charges, may be made without advertising or otherwise requesting  
191 competitive bids. However, nothing contained in this paragraph

192 (a) shall be construed to prohibit any agency or governing  
193 authority from establishing procedures which require competitive  
194 bids on purchases of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or less.





195           (b) **Bidding procedure for purchases over \$5,000.00 but**  
196 **not over \$75,000.00.** Purchases which involve an expenditure of  
197 more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) but not more than  
198 Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), exclusive of freight  
199 and shipping charges, may be made from the lowest and best bidder  
200 without publishing or posting advertisement for bids, provided at  
201 least two (2) competitive written bids have been obtained. Any  
202 state agency or community or junior college purchasing commodities  
203 or procuring construction pursuant to this paragraph (b) may  
204 authorize its purchasing agent, or his designee, to accept the  
205 lowest competitive written bid under Seventy-five Thousand Dollars  
206 (\$75,000.00). Any governing authority purchasing commodities  
207 pursuant to this paragraph (b) may authorize its purchasing agent,  
208 or his designee, with regard to governing authorities other than  
209 counties, or its purchase clerk, or his designee, with regard to  
210 counties, to accept the lowest and best competitive written bid.  
211 Such authorization shall be made in writing by the governing  
212 authority and shall be maintained on file in the primary office of  
213 the agency and recorded in the official minutes of the governing  
214 authority, as appropriate. The purchasing agent or the purchase  
215 clerk, or his designee, as the case may be, and not the governing  
216 authority, shall be liable for any penalties and/or damages as may  
217 be imposed by law for any act or omission of the purchasing agent  
218 or purchase clerk, or his designee, constituting a violation of  
219 law in accepting any bid without approval by the governing



220 authority. The term "competitive written bid" shall mean a bid  
221 submitted on a bid form furnished by the buying agency or  
222 governing authority and signed by authorized personnel  
223 representing the vendor, or a bid submitted on a vendor's  
224 letterhead or identifiable bid form and signed by authorized  
225 personnel representing the vendor. "Competitive" shall mean that  
226 the bids are developed based upon comparable identification of the  
227 needs and are developed independently and without knowledge of  
228 other bids or prospective bids. Any bid item for construction in  
229 excess of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) shall be broken down  
230 by components to provide detail of component description and  
231 pricing. These details shall be submitted with the written bids  
232 and become part of the bid evaluation criteria. Bids may be  
233 submitted by facsimile, electronic mail or other generally  
234 accepted method of information distribution. Bids submitted by  
235 electronic transmission shall not require the signature of the  
236 vendor's representative unless required by agencies or governing  
237 authorities.

238 (c) **Bidding procedure for purchases over \$75,000.00.**

239 (i) **Publication requirement.**

240 1. Purchases which involve an expenditure of  
241 more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), exclusive of  
242 freight and shipping charges, may be made from the lowest and best  
243 bidder after advertising for competitive bids once each week for  
244 two (2) consecutive weeks in a regular newspaper published in the



245 county or municipality in which such agency or governing authority  
246 is located. However, all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
247 projects in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00)  
248 shall be bid. All references to American Recovery and  
249 Reinvestment Act projects in this section shall not apply to  
250 programs identified in Division B of the American Recovery and  
251 Reinvestment Act.

252                   2. Reverse auctions shall be the primary  
253 method for receiving bids during the bidding process. If a  
254 purchasing entity determines that a reverse auction is not in the  
255 best interest of the state, then that determination must be  
256 approved by the Public Procurement Review Board. The purchasing  
257 entity shall submit a detailed explanation of why a reverse  
258 auction would not be in the best interest of the state and present  
259 an alternative process to be approved by the Public Procurement  
260 Review Board. If the Public Procurement Review Board authorizes  
261 the purchasing entity to solicit bids with a method other than  
262 reverse auction, then the purchasing entity may designate the  
263 other methods by which the bids will be received, including, but  
264 not limited to, bids sealed in an envelope, bids received  
265 electronically in a secure system, or bids received by any other  
266 method that promotes open competition and has been approved by the  
267 Office of Purchasing and Travel. However, reverse auction shall  
268 not be used for any public contract for design, construction,  
269 improvement, repair or remodeling of any public facilities,



270 including the purchase of materials, supplies, equipment or goods  
271 for same and including buildings, roads and bridges. The Public  
272 Procurement Review Board must approve any contract entered into by  
273 alternative process. The provisions of this item 2 shall not  
274 apply to the individual state institutions of higher learning.  
275 The provisions of this item 2 requiring reverse auction as the  
276 primary method of receiving bids shall not apply to term contract  
277 purchases as provided in paragraph (n) of this section; however, a  
278 purchasing entity may, in its discretion, utilize reverse auction  
279 for such purchases. The provisions of this item 2 shall not apply  
280 to individual public schools, including public charter schools and  
281 public school districts, only when purchasing copyrighted  
282 educational supplemental materials and software as a service  
283 product. For such purchases, a local school board may authorize a  
284 purchasing entity in its jurisdiction to use a Request for  
285 Qualifications which promotes open competition and meets the  
286 requirements of the Office of Purchasing and Travel.

287                   3. The date as published for the bid opening  
288 shall not be less than seven (7) working days after the last  
289 published notice; however, if the purchase involves a construction  
290 project in which the estimated cost is in excess of Seventy-five  
291 Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), such bids shall not be opened in  
292 less than fifteen (15) working days after the last notice is  
293 published and the notice for the purchase of such construction  
294 shall be published once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks.



295 However, all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects in  
296 excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be bid.  
297 For any projects in excess of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars  
298 (\$25,000.00) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act,  
299 publication shall be made one (1) time and the bid opening for  
300 construction projects shall not be less than ten (10) working days  
301 after the date of the published notice. The notice of intention  
302 to let contracts or purchase equipment shall state the time and  
303 place at which bids shall be received, list the contracts to be  
304 made or types of equipment or supplies to be purchased, and, if  
305 all plans and/or specifications are not published, refer to the  
306 plans and/or specifications on file. If there is no newspaper  
307 published in the county or municipality, then such notice shall be  
308 given by posting same at the courthouse, or for municipalities at  
309 the city hall, and at two (2) other public places in the county or  
310 municipality, and also by publication once each week for two (2)  
311 consecutive weeks in some newspaper having a general circulation  
312 in the county or municipality in the above-provided manner. On  
313 the same date that the notice is submitted to the newspaper for  
314 publication, the agency or governing authority involved shall mail  
315 written notice to, or provide electronic notification to the main  
316 office of the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program  
317 under the Mississippi Development Authority that contains the same  
318 information as that in the published notice. Submissions received  
319 by the Mississippi Procurement Technical Assistance Program for



320 projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
321 shall be displayed on a separate and unique Internet web page  
322 accessible to the public and maintained by the Mississippi  
323 Development Authority for the Mississippi Procurement Technical  
324 Assistance Program. Those American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
325 related submissions shall be publicly posted within twenty-four  
326 (24) hours of receipt by the Mississippi Development Authority and  
327 the bid opening shall not occur until the submission has been  
328 posted for ten (10) consecutive days. The Department of Finance  
329 and Administration shall maintain information regarding contracts  
330 and other expenditures from the American Recovery and Reinvestment  
331 Act, on a unique Internet web page accessible to the public. The  
332 Department of Finance and Administration shall promulgate rules  
333 regarding format, content and deadlines, unless otherwise  
334 specified by law, of the posting of award notices, contract  
335 execution and subsequent amendments, links to the contract  
336 documents, expenditures against the awarded contracts and general  
337 expenditures of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment  
338 Act. Within one (1) working day of the contract award, the agency  
339 or governing authority shall post to the designated web page  
340 maintained by the Department of Finance and Administration, notice  
341 of the award, including the award recipient, the contract amount,  
342 and a brief summary of the contract in accordance with rules  
343 promulgated by the department. Within one (1) working day of the  
344 contract execution, the agency or governing authority shall post



345 to the designated web page maintained by the Department of Finance  
346 and Administration a summary of the executed contract and make a  
347 copy of the appropriately redacted contract documents available  
348 for linking to the designated web page in accordance with the  
349 rules promulgated by the department. The information provided by  
350 the agency or governing authority shall be posted to the web page  
351 for the duration of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
352 funding or until the project is completed, whichever is longer.

353 (ii) **Bidding process amendment procedure.** If all  
354 plans and/or specifications are published in the notification,  
355 then the plans and/or specifications may not be amended. If all  
356 plans and/or specifications are not published in the notification,  
357 then amendments to the plans/specifications, bid opening date, bid  
358 opening time and place may be made, provided that the agency or  
359 governing authority maintains a list of all prospective bidders  
360 who are known to have received a copy of the bid documents and all  
361 such prospective bidders are sent copies of all amendments. This  
362 notification of amendments may be made via mail, facsimile,  
363 electronic mail or other generally accepted method of information  
364 distribution. No addendum to bid specifications may be issued  
365 within two (2) working days of the time established for the  
366 receipt of bids unless such addendum also amends the bid opening  
367 to a date not less than five (5) working days after the date of  
368 the addendum.



369 (iii) **Filing requirement.** In all cases involving  
370 governing authorities, before the notice shall be published or  
371 posted, the plans or specifications for the construction or  
372 equipment being sought shall be filed with the clerk of the board  
373 of the governing authority. In addition to these requirements, a  
374 bid file shall be established which shall indicate those vendors  
375 to whom such solicitations and specifications were issued, and  
376 such file shall also contain such information as is pertinent to  
377 the bid.

378 (iv) **Specification restrictions.**

379 1. Specifications pertinent to such bidding  
380 shall be written so as not to exclude comparable equipment of  
381 domestic manufacture. However, if valid justification is  
382 presented, the Department of Finance and Administration or the  
383 board of a governing authority may approve a request for specific  
384 equipment necessary to perform a specific job. Further, such  
385 justification, when placed on the minutes of the board of a  
386 governing authority, may serve as authority for that governing  
387 authority to write specifications to require a specific item of  
388 equipment needed to perform a specific job. In addition to these  
389 requirements, from and after July 1, 1990, vendors of relocatable  
390 classrooms and the specifications for the purchase of such  
391 relocatable classrooms published by local school boards shall meet  
392 all pertinent regulations of the State Board of Education,





393 including prior approval of such bid by the State Department of  
394 Education.

395                   2. Specifications for construction projects  
396 may include an allowance for commodities, equipment, furniture,  
397 construction materials or systems in which prospective bidders are  
398 instructed to include in their bids specified amounts for such  
399 items so long as the allowance items are acquired by the vendor in  
400 a commercially reasonable manner and approved by the  
401 agency/governing authority. Such acquisitions shall not be made  
402 to circumvent the public purchasing laws.

403                   (v) **Electronic bids.** Agencies and governing  
404 authorities shall provide a secure electronic interactive system  
405 for the submittal of bids requiring competitive bidding that shall  
406 be an additional bidding option for those bidders who choose to  
407 submit their bids electronically. The Department of Finance and  
408 Administration shall provide, by regulation, the standards that  
409 agencies must follow when receiving electronic bids. Agencies and  
410 governing authorities shall make the appropriate provisions  
411 necessary to accept electronic bids from those bidders who choose  
412 to submit their bids electronically for all purchases requiring  
413 competitive bidding under this section. Any special condition or  
414 requirement for the electronic bid submission shall be specified  
415 in the advertisement for bids required by this section. Agencies  
416 or governing authorities that are currently without available high  
417 speed Internet access shall be exempt from the requirement of this



418 subparagraph (v) until such time that high speed Internet access  
419 becomes available. Any county having a population of less than  
420 twenty thousand (20,000) shall be exempt from the provisions of  
421 this subparagraph (v). Any municipality having a population of  
422 less than ten thousand (10,000) shall be exempt from the  
423 provisions of this subparagraph (v). The provisions of this  
424 subparagraph (v) shall not require any bidder to submit bids  
425 electronically. When construction bids are submitted  
426 electronically, the requirement for including a certificate of  
427 responsibility, or a statement that the bid enclosed does not  
428 exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), on the exterior of the  
429 bid envelope as indicated in Section 31-3-21(1) and (2) shall be  
430 deemed in compliance with by including same as an attachment with  
431 the electronic bid submittal.

432 (d) **Lowest and best bid decision procedure.**

433 (i) **Decision procedure.** Purchases may be made  
434 from the lowest and best bidder. In determining the lowest and  
435 best bid, freight and shipping charges shall be included.  
436 Life-cycle costing, total cost bids, warranties, guaranteed  
437 buy-back provisions and other relevant provisions may be included  
438 in the best bid calculation. All best bid procedures for state  
439 agencies must be in compliance with regulations established by the  
440 Department of Finance and Administration. If any governing  
441 authority accepts a bid other than the lowest bid actually  
442 submitted, it shall place on its minutes detailed calculations and



443 narrative summary showing that the accepted bid was determined to  
444 be the lowest and best bid, including the dollar amount of the  
445 accepted bid and the dollar amount of the lowest bid. No agency  
446 or governing authority shall accept a bid based on items not  
447 included in the specifications.

448                   (ii) **Decision procedure for Certified Purchasing**  
449 **Offices.** In addition to the decision procedure set forth in  
450 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph (d), Certified Purchasing  
451 Offices may also use the following procedure: Purchases may be  
452 made from the bidder offering the best value. In determining the  
453 best value bid, freight and shipping charges shall be included.  
454 Life-cycle costing, total cost bids, warranties, guaranteed  
455 buy-back provisions, documented previous experience, training  
456 costs and other relevant provisions, including, but not limited  
457 to, a bidder having a local office and inventory located within  
458 the jurisdiction of the governing authority, may be included in  
459 the best value calculation. This provision shall authorize  
460 Certified Purchasing Offices to utilize a Request For Proposals  
461 (RFP) process when purchasing commodities. All best value  
462 procedures for state agencies must be in compliance with  
463 regulations established by the Department of Finance and  
464 Administration. No agency or governing authority shall accept a  
465 bid based on items or criteria not included in the specifications.

466                   (iii) **Decision procedure for Mississippi**  
467 **Landmarks.** In addition to the decision procedure set forth in



468 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph (d), where purchase involves  
469 renovation, restoration, or both, of the State Capitol Building or  
470 any other historical building designated for at least five (5)  
471 years as a Mississippi Landmark by the Board of Trustees of the  
472 Department of Archives and History under the authority of Sections  
473 39-7-7 and 39-7-11, the agency or governing authority may use the  
474 following procedure: Purchases may be made from the lowest and  
475 best prequalified bidder. Prequalification of bidders shall be  
476 determined not less than fifteen (15) working days before the  
477 first published notice of bid opening. Prequalification criteria  
478 shall be limited to bidder's knowledge and experience in  
479 historical restoration, preservation and renovation. In  
480 determining the lowest and best bid, freight and shipping charges  
481 shall be included. Life-cycle costing, total cost bids,  
482 warranties, guaranteed buy-back provisions and other relevant  
483 provisions may be included in the best bid calculation. All best  
484 bid and prequalification procedures for state agencies must be in  
485 compliance with regulations established by the Department of  
486 Finance and Administration. If any governing authority accepts a  
487 bid other than the lowest bid actually submitted, it shall place  
488 on its minutes detailed calculations and narrative summary showing  
489 that the accepted bid was determined to be the lowest and best  
490 bid, including the dollar amount of the accepted bid and the  
491 dollar amount of the lowest bid. No agency or governing authority



492 shall accept a bid based on items not included in the  
493 specifications.

494 (iv) **Construction project negotiations authority.**

495 If the lowest and best bid is not more than ten percent (10%)  
496 above the amount of funds allocated for a public construction or  
497 renovation project, then the agency or governing authority shall  
498 be permitted to negotiate with the lowest bidder in order to enter  
499 into a contract for an amount not to exceed the funds allocated.

500 (e) **Lease-purchase authorization.** For the purposes of  
501 this section, the term "equipment" shall mean equipment, furniture  
502 and, if applicable, associated software and other applicable  
503 direct costs associated with the acquisition. Any lease-purchase  
504 of equipment which an agency is not required to lease-purchase  
505 under the master lease-purchase program pursuant to Section  
506 31-7-10 and any lease-purchase of equipment which a governing  
507 authority elects to lease-purchase may be acquired by a  
508 lease-purchase agreement under this paragraph (e). Lease-purchase  
509 financing may also be obtained from the vendor or from a  
510 third-party source after having solicited and obtained at least  
511 two (2) written competitive bids, as defined in paragraph (b) of  
512 this section, for such financing without advertising for such  
513 bids. Solicitation for the bids for financing may occur before or  
514 after acceptance of bids for the purchase of such equipment or,  
515 where no such bids for purchase are required, at any time before  
516 the purchase thereof. No such lease-purchase agreement shall be



517 for an annual rate of interest which is greater than the overall  
518 maximum interest rate to maturity on general obligation  
519 indebtedness permitted under Section 75-17-101, and the term of  
520 such lease-purchase agreement shall not exceed the useful life of  
521 equipment covered thereby as determined according to the upper  
522 limit of the asset depreciation range (ADR) guidelines for the  
523 Class Life Asset Depreciation Range System established by the  
524 Internal Revenue Service pursuant to the United States Internal  
525 Revenue Code and regulations thereunder as in effect on December  
526 31, 1980, or comparable depreciation guidelines with respect to  
527 any equipment not covered by ADR guidelines. Any lease-purchase  
528 agreement entered into pursuant to this paragraph (e) may contain  
529 any of the terms and conditions which a master lease-purchase  
530 agreement may contain under the provisions of Section 31-7-10(5),  
531 and shall contain an annual allocation dependency clause  
532 substantially similar to that set forth in Section 31-7-10(8).  
533 Each agency or governing authority entering into a lease-purchase  
534 transaction pursuant to this paragraph (e) shall maintain with  
535 respect to each such lease-purchase transaction the same  
536 information as required to be maintained by the Department of  
537 Finance and Administration pursuant to Section 31-7-10(13).  
538 However, nothing contained in this section shall be construed to  
539 permit agencies to acquire items of equipment with a total  
540 acquisition cost in the aggregate of less than Ten Thousand  
541 Dollars (\$10,000.00) by a single lease-purchase transaction. All



542 equipment, and the purchase thereof by any lessor, acquired by  
543 lease-purchase under this paragraph and all lease-purchase  
544 payments with respect thereto shall be exempt from all Mississippi  
545 sales, use and ad valorem taxes. Interest paid on any  
546 lease-purchase agreement under this section shall be exempt from  
547 State of Mississippi income taxation.

548           (f) **Alternate bid authorization.** When necessary to  
549 ensure ready availability of commodities for public works and the  
550 timely completion of public projects, no more than two (2)  
551 alternate bids may be accepted by a governing authority for  
552 commodities. No purchases may be made through use of such  
553 alternate bids procedure unless the lowest and best bidder cannot  
554 deliver the commodities contained in his bid. In that event,  
555 purchases of such commodities may be made from one (1) of the  
556 bidders whose bid was accepted as an alternate.

557           (g) **Construction contract change authorization.** In the  
558 event a determination is made by an agency or governing authority  
559 after a construction contract is let that changes or modifications  
560 to the original contract are necessary or would better serve the  
561 purpose of the agency or the governing authority, such agency or  
562 governing authority may, in its discretion, order such changes  
563 pertaining to the construction that are necessary under the  
564 circumstances without the necessity of further public bids;  
565 provided that such change shall be made in a commercially  
566 reasonable manner and shall not be made to circumvent the public



567 purchasing statutes. In addition to any other authorized person,  
568 the architect or engineer hired by an agency or governing  
569 authority with respect to any public construction contract shall  
570 have the authority, when granted by an agency or governing  
571 authority, to authorize changes or modifications to the original  
572 contract without the necessity of prior approval of the agency or  
573 governing authority when any such change or modification is less  
574 than one percent (1%) of the total contract amount. The agency or  
575 governing authority may limit the number, manner or frequency of  
576 such emergency changes or modifications.

577 (h) **Petroleum purchase alternative.** In addition to  
578 other methods of purchasing authorized in this chapter, when any  
579 agency or governing authority shall have a need for gas, diesel  
580 fuel, oils and/or other petroleum products in excess of the amount  
581 set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, such agency or  
582 governing authority may purchase the commodity after having  
583 solicited and obtained at least two (2) competitive written bids,  
584 as defined in paragraph (b) of this section. If two (2)  
585 competitive written bids are not obtained, the entity shall comply  
586 with the procedures set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.  
587 In the event any agency or governing authority shall have  
588 advertised for bids for the purchase of gas, diesel fuel, oils and  
589 other petroleum products and coal and no acceptable bids can be  
590 obtained, such agency or governing authority is authorized and  
591 directed to enter into any negotiations necessary to secure the





592 lowest and best contract available for the purchase of such  
593 commodities.

594           (i) **Road construction petroleum products price**  
595 **adjustment clause authorization.** Any agency or governing  
596 authority authorized to enter into contracts for the construction,  
597 maintenance, surfacing or repair of highways, roads or streets,  
598 may include in its bid proposal and contract documents a price  
599 adjustment clause with relation to the cost to the contractor,  
600 including taxes, based upon an industry-wide cost index, of  
601 petroleum products including asphalt used in the performance or  
602 execution of the contract or in the production or manufacture of  
603 materials for use in such performance. Such industry-wide index  
604 shall be established and published monthly by the Mississippi  
605 Department of Transportation with a copy thereof to be mailed,  
606 upon request, to the clerks of the governing authority of each  
607 municipality and the clerks of each board of supervisors  
608 throughout the state. The price adjustment clause shall be based  
609 on the cost of such petroleum products only and shall not include  
610 any additional profit or overhead as part of the adjustment. The  
611 bid proposals or document contract shall contain the basis and  
612 methods of adjusting unit prices for the change in the cost of  
613 such petroleum products.

614           (j) **State agency emergency purchase procedure.** If the  
615 governing board or the executive head, or his designees, of any  
616 agency of the state shall determine that an emergency exists in



617 regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so  
618 that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive  
619 bidding would be detrimental to the interests of the state, then  
620 the head of such agency, or his designees, shall file with the  
621 Department of Finance and Administration (i) a statement  
622 explaining the conditions and circumstances of the emergency,  
623 which shall include a detailed description of the events leading  
624 up to the situation and the negative impact to the entity if the  
625 purchase is made following the statutory requirements set forth in  
626 paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of this section, and (ii) a certified  
627 copy of the appropriate minutes of the board of such agency  
628 requesting the emergency purchase, if applicable. Upon receipt of  
629 the statement and applicable board certification, the State Fiscal  
630 Officer, or his designees, may, in writing, authorize the purchase  
631 or repair without having to comply with competitive bidding  
632 requirements.

633         If the governing board or the executive head, or his  
634 designees, of any agency determines that an emergency exists in  
635 regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so  
636 that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive  
637 bidding would threaten the health or safety of any person, or the  
638 preservation or protection of property, then the provisions in  
639 this section for competitive bidding shall not apply, and any  
640 officer or agent of the agency having general or specific  
641 authority for making the purchase or repair contract shall approve



642 the bill presented for payment, and he shall certify in writing  
643 from whom the purchase was made, or with whom the repair contract  
644 was made.

645 Total purchases made under this paragraph (j) shall only be  
646 for the purpose of meeting needs created by the emergency  
647 situation. Following the emergency purchase, documentation of the  
648 purchase, including a description of the commodity purchased, the  
649 purchase price thereof and the nature of the emergency shall be  
650 filed with the Department of Finance and Administration. Any  
651 contract awarded pursuant to this paragraph (j) shall not exceed a  
652 term of one (1) year.

653 Purchases under the grant program established under Section  
654 37-68-7 in response to COVID-19 and the directive that school  
655 districts create a distance learning plan and fulfill technology  
656 needs expeditiously shall be deemed an emergency purchase for  
657 purposes of this paragraph (j).

658 (k) **Governing authority emergency purchase procedure.**

659 If the governing authority, or the governing authority acting  
660 through its designee, shall determine that an emergency exists in  
661 regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so  
662 that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive  
663 bidding would be detrimental to the interest of the governing  
664 authority, then the provisions herein for competitive bidding  
665 shall not apply and any officer or agent of such governing  
666 authority having general or special authority therefor in making



667 such purchase or repair shall approve the bill presented therefor,  
668 and he shall certify in writing thereon from whom such purchase  
669 was made, or with whom such a repair contract was made. At the  
670 board meeting next following the emergency purchase or repair  
671 contract, documentation of the purchase or repair contract,  
672 including a description of the commodity purchased, the price  
673 thereof and the nature of the emergency shall be presented to the  
674 board and shall be placed on the minutes of the board of such  
675 governing authority. Purchases under the grant program  
676 established under Section 37-68-7 in response to COVID-19 and the  
677 directive that school districts create a distance learning plan  
678 and fulfill technology needs expeditiously shall be deemed an  
679 emergency purchase for purposes of this paragraph (k).

680 (1) **Hospital purchase, lease-purchase and lease**  
681 **authorization.**

682 (i) The commissioners or board of trustees of any  
683 public hospital may contract with such lowest and best bidder for  
684 the purchase or lease-purchase of any commodity under a contract  
685 of purchase or lease-purchase agreement whose obligatory payment  
686 terms do not exceed five (5) years.

687 (ii) In addition to the authority granted in  
688 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph (1), the commissioners or board  
689 of trustees is authorized to enter into contracts for the lease of  
690 equipment or services, or both, which it considers necessary for  
691 the proper care of patients if, in its opinion, it is not



692 financially feasible to purchase the necessary equipment or  
693 services. Any such contract for the lease of equipment or  
694 services executed by the commissioners or board shall not exceed a  
695 maximum of five (5) years' duration and shall include a  
696 cancellation clause based on unavailability of funds. If such  
697 cancellation clause is exercised, there shall be no further  
698 liability on the part of the lessee. Any such contract for the  
699 lease of equipment or services executed on behalf of the  
700 commissioners or board that complies with the provisions of this  
701 subparagraph (ii) shall be excepted from the bid requirements set  
702 forth in this section.

703 (m) **Exceptions from bidding requirements.** Excepted  
704 from bid requirements are:

705 (i) **Purchasing agreements approved by department.**  
706 Purchasing agreements, contracts and maximum price regulations  
707 executed or approved by the Department of Finance and  
708 Administration.

709 (ii) **Outside equipment repairs.** Repairs to  
710 equipment, when such repairs are made by repair facilities in the  
711 private sector; however, engines, transmissions, rear axles and/or  
712 other such components shall not be included in this exemption when  
713 replaced as a complete unit instead of being repaired and the need  
714 for such total component replacement is known before disassembly  
715 of the component; however, invoices identifying the equipment,  
716 specific repairs made, parts identified by number and name,



717 supplies used in such repairs, and the number of hours of labor  
718 and costs therefor shall be required for the payment for such  
719 repairs.

720                   (iii) **In-house equipment repairs.** Purchases of  
721 parts for repairs to equipment, when such repairs are made by  
722 personnel of the agency or governing authority; however, entire  
723 assemblies, such as engines or transmissions, shall not be  
724 included in this exemption when the entire assembly is being  
725 replaced instead of being repaired.

726                   (iv) **Raw gravel or dirt.** Raw unprocessed deposits  
727 of gravel or fill dirt which are to be removed and transported by  
728 the purchaser.

729                   (v) **Governmental equipment auctions.** Motor  
730 vehicles or other equipment purchased from a federal agency or  
731 authority, another governing authority or state agency of the  
732 State of Mississippi, or any governing authority or state agency  
733 of another state at a public auction held for the purpose of  
734 disposing of such vehicles or other equipment. Any purchase by a  
735 governing authority under the exemption authorized by this  
736 subparagraph (v) shall require advance authorization spread upon  
737 the minutes of the governing authority to include the listing of  
738 the item or items authorized to be purchased and the maximum bid  
739 authorized to be paid for each item or items.

740                   (vi) **Intergovernmental sales and transfers.**  
741 Purchases, sales, transfers or trades by governing authorities or



742 state agencies when such purchases, sales, transfers or trades are  
743 made by a private treaty agreement or through means of  
744 negotiation, from any federal agency or authority, another  
745 governing authority or state agency of the State of Mississippi,  
746 or any state agency or governing authority of another state.  
747 Nothing in this section shall permit such purchases through public  
748 auction except as provided for in subparagraph (v) of this  
749 paragraph (m). It is the intent of this section to allow  
750 governmental entities to dispose of and/or purchase commodities  
751 from other governmental entities at a price that is agreed to by  
752 both parties. This shall allow for purchases and/or sales at  
753 prices which may be determined to be below the market value if the  
754 selling entity determines that the sale at below market value is  
755 in the best interest of the taxpayers of the state. Governing  
756 authorities shall place the terms of the agreement and any  
757 justification on the minutes, and state agencies shall obtain  
758 approval from the Department of Finance and Administration, prior  
759 to releasing or taking possession of the commodities.

760 (vii) **Perishable supplies or food.** Perishable  
761 supplies or food purchased for use in connection with hospitals,  
762 the school lunch programs, homemaking programs and for the feeding  
763 of county or municipal prisoners.

764 (viii) **Single-source items.** Noncompetitive items  
765 available from one (1) source only. In connection with the  
766 purchase of noncompetitive items only available from one (1)



767 source, a certification of the conditions and circumstances  
768 requiring the purchase shall be filed by the agency with the  
769 Department of Finance and Administration and by the governing  
770 authority with the board of the governing authority. Upon receipt  
771 of that certification the Department of Finance and Administration  
772 or the board of the governing authority, as the case may be, may,  
773 in writing, authorize the purchase, which authority shall be noted  
774 on the minutes of the body at the next regular meeting thereafter.  
775 In those situations, a governing authority is not required to  
776 obtain the approval of the Department of Finance and  
777 Administration. Following the purchase, the executive head of the  
778 state agency, or his designees, shall file with the Department of  
779 Finance and Administration, documentation of the purchase,  
780 including a description of the commodity purchased, the purchase  
781 price thereof and the source from whom it was purchased.

782 (ix) **Waste disposal facility construction**  
783 **contracts.** Construction of incinerators and other facilities for  
784 disposal of solid wastes in which products either generated  
785 therein, such as steam, or recovered therefrom, such as materials  
786 for recycling, are to be sold or otherwise disposed of; however,  
787 in constructing such facilities, a governing authority or agency  
788 shall publicly issue requests for proposals, advertised for in the  
789 same manner as provided herein for seeking bids for public  
790 construction projects, concerning the design, construction,  
791 ownership, operation and/or maintenance of such facilities,





792 wherein such requests for proposals when issued shall contain  
793 terms and conditions relating to price, financial responsibility,  
794 technology, environmental compatibility, legal responsibilities  
795 and such other matters as are determined by the governing  
796 authority or agency to be appropriate for inclusion; and after  
797 responses to the request for proposals have been duly received,  
798 the governing authority or agency may select the most qualified  
799 proposal or proposals on the basis of price, technology and other  
800 relevant factors and from such proposals, but not limited to the  
801 terms thereof, negotiate and enter contracts with one or more of  
802 the persons or firms submitting proposals.

803                   (x) **Hospital group purchase contracts.** Supplies,  
804 commodities and equipment purchased by hospitals through group  
805 purchase programs pursuant to Section 31-7-38.

806                   (xi) **Information technology products.** Purchases  
807 of information technology products made by governing authorities  
808 under the provisions of purchase schedules, or contracts executed  
809 or approved by the Mississippi Department of Information  
810 Technology Services and designated for use by governing  
811 authorities.

812                   (xii) **Energy efficiency services and equipment.**  
813 Energy efficiency services and equipment acquired by school  
814 districts, community and junior colleges, institutions of higher  
815 learning and state agencies or other applicable governmental



816 entities on a shared-savings, lease or lease-purchase basis  
817 pursuant to Section 31-7-14.

818 (xiii) **Municipal electrical utility system fuel.**

819 Purchases of coal and/or natural gas by municipally owned electric  
820 power generating systems that have the capacity to use both coal  
821 and natural gas for the generation of electric power.

822 (xiv) **Library books and other reference materials.**

823 Purchases by libraries or for libraries of books and periodicals;  
824 processed film, videocassette tapes, filmstrips and slides;  
825 recorded audiotapes, cassettes and diskettes; and any such items  
826 as would be used for teaching, research or other information  
827 distribution; however, equipment such as projectors, recorders,  
828 audio or video equipment, and monitor televisions are not exempt  
829 under this subparagraph.

830 (xv) **Unmarked vehicles.** Purchases of unmarked  
831 vehicles when such purchases are made in accordance with  
832 purchasing regulations adopted by the Department of Finance and  
833 Administration pursuant to Section 31-7-9(2).

834 (xvi) **Election ballots.** Purchases of ballots  
835 printed pursuant to Section 23-15-351.

836 (xvii) **Multichannel interactive video systems.**

837 From and after July 1, 1990, contracts by Mississippi Authority  
838 for Educational Television with any private educational  
839 institution or private nonprofit organization whose purposes are  
840 educational in regard to the construction, purchase, lease or



841 lease-purchase of facilities and equipment and the employment of  
842 personnel for providing multichannel interactive video systems  
843 (ITSF) in the school districts of this state.

844 (xviii) **Purchases of prison industry products by**  
845 **the Department of Corrections, regional correctional facilities or**  
846 **privately owned prisons.** Purchases made by the Mississippi  
847 Department of Corrections, regional correctional facilities or  
848 privately owned prisons involving any item that is manufactured,  
849 processed, grown or produced from the state's prison industries.

850 (xix) **Undercover operations equipment.** Purchases  
851 of surveillance equipment or any other high-tech equipment to be  
852 used by law enforcement agents in undercover operations, provided  
853 that any such purchase shall be in compliance with regulations  
854 established by the Department of Finance and Administration.

855 (xx) **Junior college books for rent.** Purchases by  
856 community or junior colleges of textbooks which are obtained for  
857 the purpose of renting such books to students as part of a book  
858 service system.

859 (xxi) **Certain school district purchases.**  
860 Purchases of commodities made by school districts from vendors  
861 with which any levying authority of the school district, as  
862 defined in Section 37-57-1, has contracted through competitive  
863 bidding procedures for purchases of the same commodities.

864 (xxii) **Garbage, solid waste and sewage contracts.**  
865 Contracts for garbage collection or disposal, contracts for solid



866 waste collection or disposal and contracts for sewage collection  
867 or disposal.

868 (xxiii) **Municipal water tank maintenance**  
869 **contracts.** Professional maintenance program contracts for the  
870 repair or maintenance of municipal water tanks, which provide  
871 professional services needed to maintain municipal water storage  
872 tanks for a fixed annual fee for a duration of two (2) or more  
873 years.

874 (xxiv) **Purchases of Mississippi Industries for the**  
875 **Blind products or services.** Purchases made by state agencies or  
876 governing authorities involving any item that is manufactured,  
877 processed or produced by, or any services provided by, the  
878 Mississippi Industries for the Blind.

879 (xxv) **Purchases of state-adopted textbooks.**  
880 Purchases of state-adopted textbooks by public school districts.

881 (xxvi) **Certain purchases under the Mississippi**  
882 **Major Economic Impact Act.** Contracts entered into pursuant to the  
883 provisions of Section 57-75-9(2), (3) and (4).

884 (xxvii) **Used heavy or specialized machinery or**  
885 **equipment for installation of soil and water conservation**  
886 **practices purchased at auction.** Used heavy or specialized  
887 machinery or equipment used for the installation and  
888 implementation of soil and water conservation practices or  
889 measures purchased subject to the restrictions provided in  
890 Sections 69-27-331 through 69-27-341. Any purchase by the State



891 Soil and Water Conservation Commission under the exemption  
892 authorized by this subparagraph shall require advance  
893 authorization spread upon the minutes of the commission to include  
894 the listing of the item or items authorized to be purchased and  
895 the maximum bid authorized to be paid for each item or items.

896 (xxviii) **Hospital lease of equipment or services.**  
897 Leases by hospitals of equipment or services if the leases are in  
898 compliance with paragraph (1)(ii).

899 (xxix) **Purchases made pursuant to qualified**  
900 **cooperative purchasing agreements.** Purchases made by certified  
901 purchasing offices of state agencies or governing authorities  
902 under cooperative purchasing agreements previously approved by the  
903 Office of Purchasing and Travel and established by or for any  
904 municipality, county, parish or state government or the federal  
905 government, provided that the notification to potential  
906 contractors includes a clause that sets forth the availability of  
907 the cooperative purchasing agreement to other governmental  
908 entities. Such purchases shall only be made if the use of the  
909 cooperative purchasing agreements is determined to be in the best  
910 interest of the governmental entity.

911 (xxx) **School yearbooks.** Purchases of school  
912 yearbooks by state agencies or governing authorities; however,  
913 state agencies and governing authorities shall use for these  
914 purchases the RFP process as set forth in the Mississippi  
915 Procurement Manual adopted by the Office of Purchasing and Travel.



916 (xxxii) **Design-build method of contracting and**  
917 **certain other contracts.** Contracts entered into under the  
918 provisions of Section 31-7-13.1, 37-101-44 or 65-1-85.

919 (xxxiii) **Toll roads and bridge construction**  
920 **projects.** Contracts entered into under the provisions of Section  
921 65-43-1 or 65-43-3.

922 (xxxiiii) **Certain purchases under Section 57-1-221.**  
923 Contracts entered into pursuant to the provisions of Section  
924 57-1-221.

925 (xxxv) **Certain transfers made pursuant to the**  
926 **provisions of Section 57-105-1(7).** Transfers of public property  
927 or facilities under Section 57-105-1(7) and construction related  
928 to such public property or facilities.

929 (xxxvi) **Certain purchases or transfers entered into**  
930 **with local electrical power associations.** Contracts or agreements  
931 entered into under the provisions of Section 55-3-33.

932 (xxxvii) **Certain purchases by an academic medical**  
933 **center or health sciences school.** Purchases by an academic  
934 medical center or health sciences school, as defined in Section  
935 37-115-50, of commodities that are used for clinical purposes and  
936 1. intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other  
937 conditions or in the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of  
938 disease, and 2. medical devices, biological, drugs and  
939 radiation-emitting devices as defined by the United States Food  
940 and Drug Administration.



941 (xxxvii) **Certain purchases made under the Alyce G.**  
942 **Clarke Mississippi Lottery Law.** Contracts made by the Mississippi  
943 Lottery Corporation pursuant to the Alyce G. Clarke Mississippi  
944 Lottery Law.

945 (xxxviii) **Certain purchases made by the Department**  
946 **of Health and the Department of Revenue.** Purchases made by the  
947 Department of Health and the Department of Revenue solely for the  
948 purpose of fulfilling their respective responsibilities under the  
949 Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act. This subparagraph shall stand  
950 repealed on June 30, 2026.

951 (n) **Term contract authorization.** All contracts for the  
952 purchase of:

953 (i) All contracts for the purchase of commodities,  
954 equipment and public construction (including, but not limited to,  
955 repair and maintenance), may be let for periods of not more than  
956 sixty (60) months in advance, subject to applicable statutory  
957 provisions prohibiting the letting of contracts during specified  
958 periods near the end of terms of office. Term contracts for a  
959 period exceeding twenty-four (24) months shall also be subject to  
960 ratification or cancellation by governing authority boards taking  
961 office subsequent to the governing authority board entering the  
962 contract.

963 (ii) Bid proposals and contracts may include price  
964 adjustment clauses with relation to the cost to the contractor  
965 based upon a nationally published industry-wide or nationally



966 published and recognized cost index. The cost index used in a  
967 price adjustment clause shall be determined by the Department of  
968 Finance and Administration for the state agencies and by the  
969 governing board for governing authorities. The bid proposal and  
970 contract documents utilizing a price adjustment clause shall  
971 contain the basis and method of adjusting unit prices for the  
972 change in the cost of such commodities, equipment and public  
973 construction.

974           (o) **Purchase law violation prohibition and vendor**  
975 **penalty.** No contract or purchase as herein authorized shall be  
976 made for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of this  
977 section requiring competitive bids, nor shall it be lawful for any  
978 person or concern to submit individual invoices for amounts within  
979 those authorized for a contract or purchase where the actual value  
980 of the contract or commodity purchased exceeds the authorized  
981 amount and the invoices therefor are split so as to appear to be  
982 authorized as purchases for which competitive bids are not  
983 required. Submission of such invoices shall constitute a  
984 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than Five Hundred  
985 Dollars (\$500.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00),  
986 or by imprisonment for thirty (30) days in the county jail, or  
987 both such fine and imprisonment. In addition, the claim or claims  
988 submitted shall be forfeited.

989           (p) **Electrical utility petroleum-based equipment**  
990 **purchase procedure.** When in response to a proper advertisement





991 therefor, no bid firm as to price is submitted to an electric  
992 utility for power transformers, distribution transformers, power  
993 breakers, reclosers or other articles containing a petroleum  
994 product, the electric utility may accept the lowest and best bid  
995 therefor although the price is not firm.

996           (q) **Fuel management system bidding procedure.** Any  
997 governing authority or agency of the state shall, before  
998 contracting for the services and products of a fuel management or  
999 fuel access system, enter into negotiations with not fewer than  
1000 two (2) sellers of fuel management or fuel access systems for  
1001 competitive written bids to provide the services and products for  
1002 the systems. In the event that the governing authority or agency  
1003 cannot locate two (2) sellers of such systems or cannot obtain  
1004 bids from two (2) sellers of such systems, it shall show proof  
1005 that it made a diligent, good-faith effort to locate and negotiate  
1006 with two (2) sellers of such systems. Such proof shall include,  
1007 but not be limited to, publications of a request for proposals and  
1008 letters soliciting negotiations and bids. For purposes of this  
1009 paragraph (q), a fuel management or fuel access system is an  
1010 automated system of acquiring fuel for vehicles as well as  
1011 management reports detailing fuel use by vehicles and drivers, and  
1012 the term "competitive written bid" shall have the meaning as  
1013 defined in paragraph (b) of this section. Governing authorities  
1014 and agencies shall be exempt from this process when contracting  
1015 for the services and products of fuel management or fuel access



1016 systems under the terms of a state contract established by the  
1017 Office of Purchasing and Travel.

1018           (r) **Solid waste contract proposal procedure.** Before  
1019 entering into any contract for garbage collection or disposal,  
1020 contract for solid waste collection or disposal or contract for  
1021 sewage collection or disposal, which involves an expenditure of  
1022 more than Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00), a governing  
1023 authority or agency shall issue publicly a request for proposals  
1024 concerning the specifications for such services which shall be  
1025 advertised for in the same manner as provided in this section for  
1026 seeking bids for purchases which involve an expenditure of more  
1027 than the amount provided in paragraph (c) of this section. Any  
1028 request for proposals when issued shall contain terms and  
1029 conditions relating to price, financial responsibility,  
1030 technology, legal responsibilities and other relevant factors as  
1031 are determined by the governing authority or agency to be  
1032 appropriate for inclusion; all factors determined relevant by the  
1033 governing authority or agency or required by this paragraph (r)  
1034 shall be duly included in the advertisement to elicit proposals.  
1035 After responses to the request for proposals have been duly  
1036 received, the governing authority or agency shall select the most  
1037 qualified proposal or proposals on the basis of price, technology  
1038 and other relevant factors and from such proposals, but not  
1039 limited to the terms thereof, negotiate and enter into contracts  
1040 with one or more of the persons or firms submitting proposals. If



1041 the governing authority or agency deems none of the proposals to  
1042 be qualified or otherwise acceptable, the request for proposals  
1043 process may be reinitiated. Notwithstanding any other provisions  
1044 of this paragraph, where a county with at least thirty-five  
1045 thousand (35,000) nor more than forty thousand (40,000)  
1046 population, according to the 1990 federal decennial census, owns  
1047 or operates a solid waste landfill, the governing authorities of  
1048 any other county or municipality may contract with the governing  
1049 authorities of the county owning or operating the landfill,  
1050 pursuant to a resolution duly adopted and spread upon the minutes  
1051 of each governing authority involved, for garbage or solid waste  
1052 collection or disposal services through contract negotiations.

1053 (s) **Minority set-aside authorization.** Notwithstanding  
1054 any provision of this section to the contrary, any agency or  
1055 governing authority, by order placed on its minutes, may, in its  
1056 discretion, set aside not more than twenty percent (20%) of its  
1057 anticipated annual expenditures for the purchase of commodities  
1058 from minority businesses; however, all such set-aside purchases  
1059 shall comply with all purchasing regulations promulgated by the  
1060 Department of Finance and Administration and shall be subject to  
1061 bid requirements under this section. Set-aside purchases for  
1062 which competitive bids are required shall be made from the lowest  
1063 and best minority business bidder. For the purposes of this  
1064 paragraph, the term "minority business" means a business which is  
1065 owned by a majority of persons who are United States citizens or



1066 permanent resident aliens (as defined by the Immigration and  
1067 Naturalization Service) of the United States, and who are Asian,  
1068 Black, Hispanic or Native American, according to the following  
1069 definitions:

1070 (i) "Asian" means persons having origins in any of  
1071 the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian  
1072 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

1073 (ii) "Black" means persons having origins in any  
1074 black racial group of Africa.

1075 (iii) "Hispanic" means persons of Spanish or  
1076 Portuguese culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central  
1077 America, or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race.

1078 (iv) "Native American" means persons having  
1079 origins in any of the original people of North America, including  
1080 American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts.

1081 (t) **Construction punch list restriction.** The  
1082 architect, engineer or other representative designated by the  
1083 agency or governing authority that is contracting for public  
1084 construction or renovation may prepare and submit to the  
1085 contractor only one (1) preliminary punch list of items that do  
1086 not meet the contract requirements at the time of substantial  
1087 completion and one (1) final list immediately before final  
1088 completion and final payment.

1089 (u) **Procurement of construction services by state**  
1090 **institutions of higher learning.** Contracts for privately financed



1091 construction of auxiliary facilities on the campus of a state  
1092 institution of higher learning may be awarded by the Board of  
1093 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to the lowest  
1094 and best bidder, where sealed bids are solicited, or to the  
1095 offeror whose proposal is determined to represent the best value  
1096 to the citizens of the State of Mississippi, where requests for  
1097 proposals are solicited.

1098           (v) **Insurability of bidders for public construction or**  
1099 **other public contracts.** In any solicitation for bids to perform  
1100 public construction or other public contracts to which this  
1101 section applies, including, but not limited to, contracts for  
1102 repair and maintenance, for which the contract will require  
1103 insurance coverage in an amount of not less than One Million  
1104 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00), bidders shall be permitted to either  
1105 submit proof of current insurance coverage in the specified amount  
1106 or demonstrate ability to obtain the required coverage amount of  
1107 insurance if the contract is awarded to the bidder. Proof of  
1108 insurance coverage shall be submitted within five (5) business  
1109 days from bid acceptance.

1110           (w) **Purchase authorization clarification.** Nothing in  
1111 this section shall be construed as authorizing any purchase not  
1112 authorized by law.

1113           (x) **Mississippi Regional Pre-Need Disaster Clean Up**  
1114 **Act.** (i) The Department of Finance and Administration shall  
1115 enter into nine (9) contracts for the pre-need purchase of labor,



1116 services, work, materials, equipment, supplies or other personal  
1117 property for disaster-related solid waste collection, disposal or  
1118 monitoring. One (1) contract shall be entered into for each of  
1119 the nine (9) Mississippi Emergency Management Association  
1120 districts:

1121 1. Coahoma, DeSoto, Grenada, Panola, Quitman,  
1122 Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica and Yalobusha Counties;

1123 2. Alcorn, Benton, Itawamba, Lafayette, Lee,  
1124 Marshall, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Tippah, Tishomingo and Union  
1125 Counties;

1126 3. Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Holmes,  
1127 Humphreys, Leflore, Montgomery, Sunflower and Washington Counties;

1128 4. Calhoun, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay,  
1129 Lowndes, Monroe, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston Counties;

1130 5. Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Issaquena,  
1131 Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo Counties;

1132 6. Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake,  
1133 Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Smith Counties and the Mississippi  
1134 Band of Choctaw Indians;

1135 7. Adams, Amite, Franklin, Jefferson,  
1136 Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties;

1137 8. Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson  
1138 Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Perry and Wayne Counties; and

1139 9. George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl  
1140 River and Stone Counties.



1141 Any such contract shall set forth the manner of awarding such  
1142 a contract, the method of payment, and any other matter deemed  
1143 necessary to carry out the purposes of the agreement. Such  
1144 contract may be entered into only for a term of one (1) year, with  
1145 an option for an additional one-year extension after the  
1146 conclusion of the first year of the contract, and only after  
1147 having solicited bids or proposals, as appropriate, which shall be  
1148 publicly advertised by posting on a web page maintained by the  
1149 Department of Finance and Administration through submission of  
1150 such advertisement to the Mississippi Procurement Technical  
1151 Assistance Program under the Mississippi Development Authority.  
1152 The bid opening shall not occur until after the submission has  
1153 been posted for at least ten (10) consecutive days. The state's  
1154 share of expenditures for solid waste collection, disposal or  
1155 monitoring under any contract shall be appropriated and paid in  
1156 the manner set forth in the contract and in the same manner as for  
1157 other solid waste collection, disposal, or monitoring expenses of  
1158 the state. Any contract entered into under this paragraph shall  
1159 not be subject to the provisions of Section 17-13-11.

1160 (ii) Any board of supervisors of any county or any  
1161 governing authority of any municipality may opt in to the benefits  
1162 and services provided under the appropriate and relevant contract  
1163 established in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph at the time of a  
1164 disaster event in that county or municipality. At the time of opt  
1165 in, the county or municipality shall assume responsibility for



1166 payment in full to the contractor for the disaster-related solid  
1167 waste collection, disposal or monitoring services provided.  
1168 Nothing in this subparagraph (ii) shall be construed as requiring  
1169 a county or municipality to opt in to any such contract  
1170 established in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

1171 **SECTION 4.** Section 49-19-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1172 brought forward as follows:

1173 49-19-3. The duties and powers of the commission shall be:

1174 (a) To appoint a State Forester, who shall serve at the  
1175 will and pleasure of the commission and who is qualified to  
1176 perform the duties as set forth herein; and to pay him such salary  
1177 as is provided by the Legislature, and allow him such office  
1178 expenses incidental to the performance of his official duties as  
1179 the commission, in its discretion, may deem necessary; and to  
1180 charge him with the immediate direction and control, subject to  
1181 the supervision and approval of the commission, of all matters  
1182 relating to forestry as authorized herein. Any person appointed  
1183 by the commission as State Forester shall have received a  
1184 bachelor's degree in forestry from an accredited school or college  
1185 of forestry and shall be licensed and registered under the  
1186 provisions of the Mississippi Foresters Registration Law (Section  
1187 73-36-1 et seq.) and in addition shall have had at least five (5)  
1188 years' administrative experience in a forestry-related field.

1189 (b) To take such action and provide and maintain such  
1190 organized means as may seem necessary and expedient to prevent,





1191 control and extinguish forest fires, including the enforcement of  
1192 any and all laws pertaining to the protection of forests and  
1193 woodland.

1194 (c) To encourage forest and tree planting for the  
1195 production of a wood crop, for the protection of water supply, for  
1196 windbreak and shade, or for any other beneficial purposes  
1197 contributing to the general welfare, public hygiene and comfort of  
1198 the people.

1199 (d) To cause to be made such technical investigations  
1200 and studies concerning forest conditions, the propagation, care  
1201 and protection of forest and shade trees, the care and management  
1202 of forests, their growth, yield and the products and by-products  
1203 thereof, and any other competent subject, including forest  
1204 taxation, bearing on the timber supply and needs of the state,  
1205 which the commission, in its discretion, may deem proper.

1206 (e) To assist and cooperate with any federal or state  
1207 department or institution, county, town, corporation or  
1208 individual, under such terms as in the judgment of the commission  
1209 will best serve the public interest, in the preparation and  
1210 execution of plans for the protection, management, replacement, or  
1211 extension of the forest, woodland and roadside or other ornamental  
1212 tree growth in the state.

1213 (f) To encourage public interest in forestry by means  
1214 of correspondence, the public press, periodicals, the publication  
1215 of bulletins and leaflets for general distribution, the delivery



1216 of lectures in the schools and other suitable means, and to  
1217 cooperate to the fullest extent with the extension department  
1218 services of the state colleges in promoting reforestation. It  
1219 shall be the duty of the State Forester to cooperate with private  
1220 timber owners in laying plans for the protection, management and  
1221 replacement of forests and in aiding them to form protection  
1222 associations. It shall be his duty to examine all timbered lands  
1223 belonging to the state and its institutions and report to the  
1224 commission upon their timber conditions and actual value, and also  
1225 whether some of these lands may not be held as state forests. He  
1226 shall be responsible for the protection and management of lands  
1227 donated, purchased or belonging to the state or state  
1228 institutions, and all other lands reserved by the state as state  
1229 forests.

1230 (g) To control the expenditure of any and all funds  
1231 appropriated or otherwise made available for the several purposes  
1232 set forth herein under suitable regulations and restrictions by  
1233 the commission and to specifically authorize any officer or  
1234 employee of the commission to incur necessary and stipulated  
1235 expenses in connection with the work in which such person may be  
1236 engaged.

1237 (h) To submit annually to the Legislature a report of  
1238 the expenditures, proceedings and results achieved, together with  
1239 such other matters including recommendations concerning



1240 legislation as are germane to the aims and purposes of this  
1241 chapter.

1242 (i) To create, establish and organize the State of  
1243 Mississippi into forestry districts for the most effective and  
1244 efficient administration of the commission.

1245 (j) To appoint, upon the State Forester's  
1246 recommendation, six (6) individuals who shall be designated  
1247 Mississippi Forestry Commission Law Enforcement Officers with  
1248 authority to bear arms, investigate and make arrests; however, the  
1249 law enforcement duties and authority of the officers shall be  
1250 limited to woods arson. The officers shall comply with applicable  
1251 minimum educational and training standards for law enforcement  
1252 officers. These officers may issue citations for any violation of  
1253 those laws for recklessly or with gross negligence causing fire to  
1254 burn the lands of another. A citation issued by a Forestry  
1255 Commission law enforcement officer shall be issued on a uniform  
1256 citation form consisting of an original and at least two (2)  
1257 copies. Such citation shall show, among other necessary  
1258 information, the name of the issuing officer, the name of the  
1259 court in which the cause is to be heard and the date and time the  
1260 person charged with a violation is to appear to answer the charge.  
1261 The uniform citation form shall make a provision on it for  
1262 information that will constitute a complaint charging the offense  
1263 for which the citation was issued and, when duly sworn to and  
1264 filed with a court of competent jurisdiction, prosecution may



1265 proceed under that complaint. For the purposes of this paragraph,  
1266 the fact that any person is found to have a brush or debris pile  
1267 or other material which is or was being burned and reasonable and  
1268 prudent efforts were not taken to prevent the spread of the fire  
1269 onto the lands of another shall be evidence that such person  
1270 recklessly or with gross negligence caused the land to burn.

1271 This paragraph shall stand repealed on June 30, 2022.

1272 **SECTION 5.** Section 55-3-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
1273 brought forward as follows:

1274 55-3-53. (1) The Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
1275 Fisheries and Parks is hereby authorized and empowered to sell and  
1276 dispose of timber, trees, deadwood and stumps standing, growing  
1277 and being upon the lands of state parks. Such timber shall be  
1278 sold and disposed of under the direction and specifications of the  
1279 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in accordance with  
1280 sound and efficient principles of selective cutting, forestry  
1281 management and conservation.

1282 Before any such timber, trees, deadwood and stumps shall be  
1283 sold, the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks shall select  
1284 and mark the trees to be cut and disposed of. No trees or timber  
1285 shall be marked for cutting when the cutting thereof would destroy  
1286 or mar the scenic views from the tourist observation points in  
1287 said park. The purchaser shall pay double price on sale basis for  
1288 all trees, timber or stumps cut that had not been marked for  
1289 removing by the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.



1290           Before any such timber, trees, deadwood or stumps standing,  
1291 growing or being upon such land shall be sold, the department  
1292 shall advertise its intention so to do by publication in a  
1293 newspaper published or having general circulation in the county or  
1294 counties where parks are located, such notice to be published at  
1295 least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks preceding the  
1296 sale and by posting one (1) notice in the courthouse in such  
1297 county. The notice shall specify that such bids shall be filed  
1298 with the superintendent of the state park involved, who shall  
1299 transmit same to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks  
1300 for rejection or approval. Said department shall accept the bid  
1301 of the highest and best bidder for cash, but shall have the right  
1302 to reject any and all of such bids.

1303           Provided, however, in the case of damage by fire, windstorm,  
1304 insects or other natural causes which would require immediate sale  
1305 of the timber, because the time involved for advertisement as  
1306 prescribed herein would allow decay, rot or destruction  
1307 substantially decreasing the purchase price to be received had not  
1308 such delay occurred, the advertisement provisions of this section  
1309 shall not apply. The State Park Director, upon a written  
1310 recommendation from the county forester of the county wherein said  
1311 state park is located, shall determine when immediate sale of the  
1312 timber is required. When the State Park Director shall find an  
1313 immediate sale necessary for the causes stated herein, he shall,  
1314 in his discretion, set the time for receipt of bids on the



1315 purchase of said timber, but shall show due diligence in notifying  
1316 competitive bidders so that a true competitive bid shall be  
1317 received.

1318 Whenever any timber, trees, deadwood or stumps are sold under  
1319 the provisions of this section, the purchaser thereof shall have  
1320 all necessary rights of ingress and egress to enter upon said land  
1321 and cut and remove such timber, trees, deadwood or stumps.

1322 The proceeds derived or received from all sales under the  
1323 provisions of this section shall be placed in the State Parks  
1324 Timber Management Endowment Fund created under Section 55-3-54.

1325 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this  
1326 section, the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks may cut  
1327 and sell trees damaged by fire, windstorm or insects and deadwood  
1328 and stumps located upon the lands of state parks for firewood.  
1329 Such firewood shall be sold only to overnight guests at state  
1330 parks for use at state parks. The Department of Wildlife,  
1331 Fisheries and Parks shall select and mark all trees to be cut for  
1332 firewood.

1333 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
1334 and after July 1, 2024.

