

By: Senator(s) Younger, Blackwell, Polk,
Kirby, Chassaniol, McMahan

To: Ports and Marine
Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2508

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTIONS 49-16-1, 49-16-3 AND 49-16-5,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CREATE A COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON
3 COASTAL RESILIENCY AND RESTORATION; TO DEFINE ITS MEMBERSHIP AND
4 DUTIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
7 49-16-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:

8 49-16-1. The Legislature finds that: (1) To effectively
9 facilitate coastal resiliency and restoration, coordination
10 between governmental agencies involved in these areas is of vital
11 importance; and

12 (2) A coordinating body of agencies charged with expending
13 restoration and resiliency funds is the best means for
14 accomplishing effective planning of the state's resiliency and
15 restoration efforts.

16 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
17 49-16-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:



18 49-16-3. (1) There is hereby created the Coordinating
19 Committee for Coastal Resiliency and Restoration. The committee
20 shall consist of:

21 (a) The Executive Director of the Department of Marine
22 Resources;

23 (b) The Executive Director of the Department of
24 Environmental Quality;

25 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
26 Development Authority;

27 (d) An appointee from Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson
28 counties. The board of supervisors of each county shall make the
29 appointment;

30 (e) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
31 Department of Transportation;

32 (f) The Executive Director of the Emergency Management
33 Agency;

34 (g) The Secretary of State;

35 (h) The State Forrester; and

36 (i) The Executive Director of the Department of
37 Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

38 (2) With the exception of the appointees from Hancock,
39 Harrison, and Jackson counties, all appointees may designate a
40 subordinate employee for their agency to serve on the committee.
41 Members who are public officers or employees may receive travel
42 reimbursement from their respective state agencies as provided in



43 Section 25-3-41. Employees of the state agencies and counties set
44 out in this section shall aid the committee when requested by the
45 committee to do so.

46 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section
47 49-16-5, Mississippi Code of 1972:

48 49-16-5. (1) The committee shall be responsible for
49 developing a master plan for coastal resiliency and restoration
50 which shall be revised as deemed necessary by the committee. The
51 committee shall meet at least once annually to determine what
52 steps need to be taken in association with the development and
53 modifications to the resiliency and restoration plan.

54 (2) Specifically, the committee's duties and
55 responsibilities are as follows:

56 (a) To identify priority-need areas;

57 (b) To identify and define the state's goals and
58 objectives for the state's coastal resiliency and restoration
59 efforts;

60 (c) To identify metrics and criteria by which to assess
61 the impact of the state's coastal resiliency and restoration
62 efforts and a method for monitoring such efforts;

63 (d) To identify the available funding sources that
64 could be used to carry out a coastal resiliency and restoration
65 master plan, including the limitations of each funding source. In
66 carrying out this duty, the committee shall not be limited to a
67 particular agency program or funding stream;



68 (e) To identify strategies to collaborate and leverage
69 state, federal, and local funding; and

70 (f) To identify any changes in statutes, regulations,
71 or structure that needs to be amended to better support the state
72 coastal resiliency and restoration process.

73 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
74 and after July 1, 2024.

