

By: Senator(s) McLendon

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2919

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAM
 2 ACT; TO DEFINE TERMS; TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI SEARCH AND
 3 RESCUE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE TO PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES
 4 UNDER THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO
 5 PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
 6 PROVIDED WITH THE NECESSARY FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT, TRAINING
 7 FACILITIES, AND WAREHOUSES FOR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL FOR THE
 8 PROGRAM TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS; TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND WITH
 9 THE STATE TREASURY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MISSISSIPPI SEARCH AND
 10 RESCUE PROGRAM FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 13 "Mississippi Search And Rescue Program Act."

14 **SECTION 2.** For purposes of this act, the following words
 15 shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context clearly
 16 requires otherwise:

17 (a) "Agency" means the Mississippi Emergency Management
 18 Agency.

19 (b) "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

20 (c) "Fund" means the Mississippi Search and Rescue
 21 Program Fund created in this act.



22 (c) "Office" means the Mississippi Office of Homeland
23 Security.

24 (d) "Program" means the Mississippi Search And Rescue
25 Program established in this act.

26 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is established the Mississippi Search
27 And Rescue Program. The office shall be the coordinating state
28 agency.

29 (2) Under the program, the office

30 (a) Shall develop, coordinate, respond to, and maintain
31 the State of Mississippi's efforts toward providing resources to
32 conduct search and rescue operations after man-made or natural
33 disasters as well as conducting other operations within the
34 boundaries of the State of Mississippi or in coordinated response
35 with other states or the federal government;

36 (b) Provide clerical, administrative and technical
37 assistance for the program; and

38 (c) Develop policies and procedures to guide during the
39 operation of the program.

40 (3) The director of the office shall:

41 (a) Designate an employee of the office to assist with
42 the administrative requirements associated with the establishment
43 and maintenance of the program; and

44 (b) Employ, as necessary, other personnel to assist in
45 the operations of the program including personnel overseeing urban
46 search and rescue operations, planning and logistics.



47 (4) The program shall be provided with the necessary funding
48 for equipment, training facilities and warehouses for equipment
49 and personnel for the program to perform its functions.

50 **SECTION 4.** There is created within the State Treasury a
51 special fund to be known as the Mississippi Search and Rescue
52 Program Fund. The fund shall consist of monies received from
53 grants, gifts, state appropriations and federal funds. Monies in
54 the fund shall be disbursed by the office for the purposes of the
55 program upon appropriation by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts
56 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not lapse
57 into the State General Fund, and any investment earnings or
58 interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the
59 credit of the fund.

60 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after July 1, 2024.

