

By: Representative Thompson

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 174

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATURAL RESOURCE CAMP PILOT PROGRAM
2 ACT OF 2025 FOR STUDENTS IN LEE AND MONROE COUNTIES; TO PROVIDE
3 THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE A
4 THREE-YEAR PROGRAM ADMINISTERED JOINTLY BY THE BOARDS OF
5 SUPERVISORS OF LEE AND MONROE COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE THE BOARDS TO
6 SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROGRAM TO THE LEGISLATURE; TO
7 PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO RECEIVING FUNDS
8 APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
11 "Natural Resource Camp Pilot Program Act of 2025."

12 SECTION 2. (1) There is established for the students of Lee
13 and Monroe counties a Natural Resource Camp pilot program. The
14 program shall be for the purpose of teaching students the
15 importance of the soil, water, plants, animals and air; the need
16 to maintain a healthy environment; and the importance of land
17 ownership and the wealth that is obtained through owning property.

18 (2) The program shall be administered jointly by the boards
19 of supervisors of Lee and Monroe counties.

20 (3) The program shall be implemented within sixty (60) days
21 after the effective date of this act and shall continue for three

22 (3) years, subject to the availability of funds appropriated by
23 the Legislature for that purpose, or funds received by the
24 counties as a gift, donation or bequest for such purposes.

25 **SECTION 3.** By July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter for the
26 duration of the pilot program, the boards of supervisors of Lee
27 and Monroe counties shall prepare and submit to the Legislature a
28 report of the data collected on the status of the program. The
29 report shall include:

30 (a) The number of students involved in the program;
31 (b) The number of staff required to implement and
32 operate the program;
33 (c) The cost of operating the program;
34 (d) An analysis of the effectiveness of the program;
35 (e) Recommendations to improve the program; and
36 (f) Projections as to the cost of implementing and
37 expanding the pilot program to a permanent program to meet the
38 needs of the entire state.

39 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
40 and after July 1, 2025.

