

By: Senator(s) Frazier

To: Environment Prot, Cons  
and Water Res

## SENATE BILL NO. 2249

1       AN ACT TO GRANT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
2 QUALITY AUTHORITY TO ADOPT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF  
3 LARGE SOLAR PANELS; TO AMEND SECTION 49-2-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
4 1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6       **SECTION 1.** The Mississippi Department of Environmental  
7 Quality shall have the authority to adopt rules and regulations  
8 concerning the placement of large solar panels.

9       **SECTION 2.** Section 49-2-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11       49-2-9. (1) Effective July 1, 1979, the commission shall  
12 have the following powers and duties:

13               (a) To formulate the policy of the department regarding  
14 natural resources within the jurisdiction of the department;

15               (b) To adopt, modify, repeal, and promulgate, after due  
16 notice and hearing, and where not otherwise prohibited by federal  
17 or state law, to make exceptions to and grant exemptions and  
18 variances from, and to enforce rules and regulations implementing  
19 or effectuating the powers and duties of the commission under any

20 and all statutes within the commission's jurisdiction, and as the  
21 commission may deem necessary to prevent, control and abate  
22 existing or potential pollution;

23 (c) To apply for, receive and expend any federal or  
24 state funds or contributions, gifts, devises, bequests or funds  
25 from any other source;

26 (d) To commission or conduct studies designed to  
27 determine alternative methods of managing or using the natural  
28 resources of this state, in a manner to insure efficiency and  
29 maximum productivity;

30 (e) To enter into, and to authorize the executive  
31 director to execute with the approval of the commission,  
32 contracts, grants and cooperative agreements with any federal or  
33 state agency or subdivision thereof, or any public or private  
34 institution located inside or outside the State of Mississippi, or  
35 any person, corporation or association in connection with carrying  
36 out the provisions of this chapter; but this authority under this  
37 chapter and under any and all statutes within the commission's  
38 jurisdiction, except those statutes relating to the Bureau of  
39 Recreation and Parks, shall not include contracts, grants or  
40 cooperative agreements which do not develop data or information  
41 usable by the commission, or which provide goods, services or  
42 facilities to the commission or any of its bureaus, and shall  
43 exclude any monies for special interest groups for purposes of  
44 lobbying or otherwise promoting their special interests; \* \* \*



45 (f) To discharge such other duties, responsibilities  
46 and powers as are necessary to implement the provisions of this  
47 chapter \* \* \*; and

### 56 (a) Geodetic control;

## 57 (b) Elevation and bathymetry;

### 58 (c) Orthoimagery;

59 (d) Hydrography;

60 (e) *Transporta*

61 (f) Government boun

62 (g) Cadastral. With respect to the cadastral layer,

63 the authority and responsibility of the Mississippi Department

64 Environmental Quality, Office of Geology and Energy Resources  
65 shall be limited to compiling information submitted by counties.

66 For all seven (7) framework layers, the Mississippi

67 Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology and Energy  
68 Resources shall be the integrator of data from all sources and the  
69 guarantor of data completeness and consistency and shall

70 administer the council's policies and standards for the  
71 procurement of remote sensing and geographic information system  
72 data by state and local governmental entities.

73         **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
74 and after July 1, 2025.

