

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; * * *



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

(g) To regulate placement of large solar panels, pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

(2) The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology and Energy Resources shall be responsible for program management, procurement, development and maintenance of the Mississippi Digital Earth Model, which should include the following seven (7) core data layers of a digital land base computer model of the State of Mississippi:

(a) Geodetic control;

(b) Elevation and bathymetry;

(c) Orthoimagery;

(d) Hydrography;

(e) Transportation;

(f) Government boundaries; and

(g) Cadastral. With respect to the cadastral layer, the authority and responsibility of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology and Energy Resources shall be limited to compiling information submitted by counties.

For all seven (7) framework layers, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology and Energy Resources shall be the integrator of data from all sources and the 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.

