

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 602

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) For purposes of this section:

10 (a) "Seafood" means shrimp, crawfish, saltwater
11 finfish, crustaceans, molluscan shellfish and other forms of
12 saltwater aquatic animal life where such aquatic animal life is
13 intended for human consumption. The term seafood shall not
14 include catfish as defined in Section 69-7-605.

15 (b) "Label" means a display of written, printed or
16 graphic matter upon or affixed to the container in which a seafood
17 product is offered for direct retail sale.

18 (2) (a) There is hereby established the Mississippi Seafood
19 Labeling Task Force to study and make recommendations to the
20 Legislature and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and
21 the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce regarding
22 the regulation of seafood labeling and seafood testing, for the
23 maximization of benefit from that industry for the State of
24 Mississippi and its citizens.

25 (b) The Task Force shall be composed as follows:

(i) The Governor or his designee;

(ii) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources or his designee;

(iii) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce or his designee;

(iv) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission or his designee;

(v) A representative of the Mississippi Restaurant Association;

(vi) The Director of the Division of Tourism or his designee.

(viii) A person with a valid commercial fisherman's license appointed by the Governor; and

(ix) A person who is an active shrimp or seafood processor appointed by the Governor.

(c) The Task Force shall meet upon the call of the Executive Director of the Department of Marine Resources not later than 30 days after passage of this act, and organize for business by electing a Chairman and Secretary, and adopting necessary bylaws. The Department of Marine Resources shall provide necessary administrative and clerical support for the Task Force. The Task Force may hold meetings and hold public hearings as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

(d) The Task Force is hereby charged with responsibility for the following:

51 (i) To study and make recommendations with respect
52 to seafood labeling laws and genetic seafood testing;

53 (ii) To study and make recommendations with
54 respect to domestic and imported seafood;

55 (iii) To study and make recommendations with
56 respect to the seafood industry and seafood production;

57 (iv) To study and make recommendations with
58 respect to markets and marketing strategies for the development
59 and expansion of markets for seafood harvested from Mississippi
60 waters; and

61 (v) To perform any acts deemed necessary and
62 proper to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

63 (e) The activities of the Mississippi Seafood Task
64 Force shall be funded through any funds made available by
65 appropriation of the Legislature.

66 (f) The Task Force shall develop and make a report with
67 recommendations for necessary legislation to the Governor,
68 Legislature and affected state agencies on or before January 1,
69 2027, and on the completion of its report, the Task Force shall
70 stand dissolved.

71 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
72 and after July 1, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND EMPOWER THE MISSISSIPPI SEAFOOD
2 LABELING TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING

3 SEAFOOD LABELING, SEAFOOD MARKETING AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTION IN THE
4 WATERS OF MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE TASK
5 FORCE; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TASK FORCE; TO
6 PROVIDE FOR A REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

SS26\HB602A.1J

Amanda White
Secretary of the Senate