

**Adopted  
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2357**

**BY: Senator(s) Barnett, Chassaniol**

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

9        **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Department of Corrections is  
10 hereby empowered, authorized and directed to enter into necessary  
11 contracts with the Greenwood-Leflore-Carroll Economic Development  
12 Foundation for the establishment, construction, operation and  
13 maintenance of a Delta Work Release Program to employ offenders  
14 within the custody of the department or prison industries in local  
15 industries or businesses to assist local industries' or business'  
16 workforce needs.



17           (2)   (a)   The offenders shall be paid, by the entity or  
18 entities, wages at a rate which is not less than that paid for  
19 similar work in the locality in which the work is performed.

20                   (b)   The offender shall maintain an account through a  
21 local financial institution and shall provide a copy of a check  
22 stub to the administrator. The offender shall be required to pay  
23 his or her wages earned as a participant under the programs for  
24 the following purposes:

25                           (i)   To pay twenty-five percent (25%) toward any  
26 support of dependents or to the Mississippi Department of Human  
27 Services on behalf of dependents as may be ordered by a judge of  
28 competent jurisdiction as well as fines, restitution, or costs as  
29 ordered by the court to include any fines and fees associated with  
30 obtaining a valid driver's license upon release. Once all the  
31 aforementioned balances have been cleared, or if no liability  
32 exists, these funds shall be added to the participants savings  
33 diversion program.

34                           (ii)   To save fifty percent (50%) of the offender's  
35 wages in the account required under paragraph (a) of this  
36 subsection. Monies under this subparagraph shall be made  
37 available to the offender upon parole or release.

38                           (iii)   To pay up to fifteen percent (15%) of the  
39 offender's wages to the MDOC for administrative expenses to  
40 include transportation costs.



41 (iv) The offender shall have access to the  
42 remaining ten percent (10%) of the monies in his/her account to  
43 purchase incidental expenses.

44 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the  
45 contrary, the offenders shall not be qualified to receive any  
46 payments for unemployment compensation while incarcerated.  
47 However, the offenders shall not solely by their status as  
48 offenders be deprived of the right to participate in benefits made  
49 available by the federal or state government to other individuals  
50 on the basis of their employment, such as workers' compensation.

51 (4) Offenders who participate in the employment must do so  
52 voluntarily and must agree in advance to the specific deductions  
53 made from gross wages pursuant to this section and to all other  
54 financial arrangements or benefits resulting from participation in  
55 the employment.

56 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
57 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 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
2 TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE GREENWOOD-LEFLORE-CARROLL  
3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT,  
4 CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DELTA WORK RELEASE  
5 PROGRAM TO EMPLOY OFFENDERS WITHIN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
6 OR PRISON INDUSTRIES IN LOCAL INDUSTRIES OR BUSINESSES TO ASSIST  
7 LOCAL INDUSTRIES' WORKFORCE NEEDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

