

By: Representative Ellzey

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 1148

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-37-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT AFTER THE PASSAGE OF ANY REFERENDUM UNDER THE BOLL
3 WEEVIL MANAGEMENT ACT, THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS, BY SUBSEQUENT
4 REFERENDA HELD EVERY TEN YEARS INSTEAD OF EVERY FIVE YEARS, MAY
5 VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONTINUE WITH THE PROGRAM OR MODIFY THE
6 ASSESSMENT FEE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 69-37-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 69-37-21. (1) In the event any referendum conducted under
11 this act fails to receive the required number of affirmative
12 votes, the bureau, with the consent of the Certified Cotton
13 Growers Organization, may be authorized to call other referenda.

14 (2) After the passage of any referendum, the eligible voters
15 shall be allowed, by subsequent referenda to be held at least
16 every ten (10) years or upon recommendation of the certified
17 growers committee, to vote on whether to continue with the program
18 and/or to modify the assessment fee. Upon petition by twenty
19 percent (20%) of the voting cotton growers within a designated
20 region, the Certified Cotton Growers Organization shall be
21 required to conduct a subsequent referendum on the question called
22 in the petition, provided that the Certified Cotton Growers
23 Organization is required to hold no more than one (1) petitioned
24 referendum for each designated management region during any given
25 calendar year. All the requirements for an initial referendum
26 must be met in any subsequent referenda.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2001.