

By: Senator(s) Minor

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2929

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-69-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 DELETE THE PROVISION REQUIRING THAT IN DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING
 3 A CENTRAL MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CERTIFICATION LIST FOR
 4 STATE AGENCIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, THE OFFICE OF
 5 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT
 6 AUTHORITY SHALL NOT CONSIDER SIZE OF BUSINESS OR LENGTH OF TIME IN
 7 BUSINESS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST; TO AMEND
 8 SECTIONS 57-69-3 AND 57-69-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REFLECT
 9 THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
 10 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT
 11 AUTHORITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-69-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 14 amended as follows:

15 57-69-5. (1) There is hereby created the Office of Minority
 16 Business Enterprises of the Mississippi Development Authority
 17 under the Mississippi Development Authority. The Executive
 18 Director of the Mississippi Development Authority shall appoint an
 19 executive director for the office. The executive director may
 20 employ a staff subject to approval of the Executive Director of
 21 the Mississippi Development Authority as necessary to carry out
 22 the purposes of this office.

23 (2) The office shall perform the following:

24 (a) Develop, plan and implement programs to provide an
 25 opportunity for participation by qualified minority owned
 26 businesses in public works and the process by which goods and
 27 services are procured by state agencies and educational
 28 institutions from the private sector;

29 (b) Develop a comprehensive plan encouraging that
 30 qualified minority owned businesses are provided an opportunity to



31 participate in public contracts for public works and commodities
32 and services;

33 (c) Identify barriers to equal participation by
34 qualified minority owned businesses in all state agency and
35 educational institution contracts;

36 (d) Develop and maintain a central minority business
37 enterprise certification list for all state agencies and
38 educational institutions * * *;

39 (e) Adopt rules for the implementation of this chapter;

40 (f) Develop and maintain a central minority business
41 enterprise certification program;

42 (g) Submit an annual report to the Governor and the
43 Legislature outlining the progress and economic impact on the
44 public and private sectors of implementing this chapter;

45 (h) Increase efforts to inform minority businesses of
46 state government procurement procedures and policies;

47 (i) Serve as the principal advocate in the state on
48 behalf of minority business enterprises and provide advice in the
49 consideration of administrative requirements and legislation that
50 affect minority business enterprises;

51 (j) Evaluate the effectiveness of efforts of state
52 agencies and other entities to assist minority business
53 enterprises and make appropriate recommendations to assist the
54 development and strengthening of minority business enterprises;

55 (k) Determine the availability of financial and other
56 resources to minority business enterprises and recommend methods
57 for:

58 (i) Increasing the availability of equity capital
59 and other forms of financial assistance to minority business
60 enterprises;

61 (ii) Generating markets for the goods and services
62 of minority business enterprises;



63 (iii) Providing more effective education, training
64 and management and technical assistance to minority business
65 enterprises; and

66 (iv) Providing assistance to minority business
67 enterprises in complying with federal, state and local laws;

68 (1) Serve as a focal point for receiving complaints and
69 suggestions concerning state government policies and activities
70 that affect minority business enterprises;

71 (m) Develop and advocate proposals for changes in state
72 policies and activities that adversely affect minority business
73 enterprises;

74 (n) Provide to legislative committees and state
75 agencies information on the effects of proposed policies or
76 actions that affect minority business enterprises;

77 (o) Enlist the assistance of public and private
78 agencies, businesses and other organizations in disseminating
79 information about state programs and services that benefit
80 minority business enterprises and information regarding means by
81 which minority business enterprises can use those programs and
82 services;

83 (p) Identify sources of financial assistance for
84 minority business enterprises, match minority business enterprises
85 with sources of financial assistance, and assist minority business
86 enterprises with the preparation of applications for loans from
87 governmental or private sources;

88 (q) Sponsor meetings, to the extent practicable in
89 cooperation with public and private educational institutions, to
90 provide training and disseminate information beneficial to
91 minority business enterprises;

92 (r) Assist minority business enterprises in their
93 dealings with federal, state and local governmental agencies and
94 provide information regarding governmental requirements affecting
95 minority business enterprises;



96 (s) Develop and implement programs to encourage
97 governmental agencies, public sector business associations and
98 other organizations to provide useful services to minority
99 business enterprises;

100 (t) Use available resources within the state, such as
101 minority business enterprise development centers, educational
102 institutions and nonprofit associations, to coordinate the
103 provision of management and technical assistance to minority
104 business enterprises in a systematic manner;

105 (u) Publish newsletters, brochures and other documents
106 containing information useful to minority business enterprises;

107 (v) Identify successful minority business enterprise
108 assistance programs provided by other states and determine the
109 feasibility of adapting those programs for implementation in
110 Mississippi;

111 (w) Establish an outreach program to make the existence
112 of the office known to minority business enterprises and potential
113 clients throughout the state; and

114 (x) Identify potential business opportunities for
115 minority business enterprises and develop programs to maximize
116 those opportunities.

117 **SECTION 2.** Section 57-69-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
118 amended as follows:

119 57-69-3. Unless the context requires otherwise, the
120 following words shall have the following meanings for the purposes
121 of this chapter:

122 (a) "Class of contract basis" means an entire group of
123 contracts having a common characteristic.

124 (b) "Commercially useful function" means being
125 responsible for execution of a contract or a distinct element of
126 the work under a contract by actually performing, managing, and
127 supervising the work involved.



128 (c) "Contract" means all types of state agreements,
129 regardless of what they may be called, for the purchase of
130 supplies or services or for construction or major repairs.

131 "Contract" includes the following:

132 (i) Awards and notices of award.

133 (ii) Contracts of a fixed price, cost,
134 cost-plus-a-fixed-fee, or incentive types.

135 (iii) Contracts providing for the issuance of job
136 or task orders.

137 (iv) Leases.

138 (v) Letter contracts.

139 (vi) Purchase orders.

140 (vii) Any supplemental agreements with respect to
141 (i) through (vi) of this subparagraph.

142 (d) "Contracting base" means the dollar amount of
143 contracts for public works and procurement of goods and services
144 awarded by a state agency or a state educational institution
145 during a fiscal year.

146 (e) "Contract by contract basis" means a single
147 contract within a specific class of contracts.

148 (f) "Contractor" means a party who enters into a
149 contract to provide a state or educational institution with goods
150 or services, including construction, or a subcontractor or
151 sublessee of such a party.

152 (g) "Director" means the Executive Director of the
153 Office of Minority Business Enterprises of the Mississippi
154 Development Authority.

155 (h) "Educational institutions" means the state
156 universities, vocational institutions, and any other
157 state-supported educational institutions.

158 (i) "Joint venture" means an association of two (2) or
159 more persons or businesses to carry out a single business
160 enterprise for profit for which purpose they combine their



161 property, capital, efforts, skills, and knowledge, and in which
162 they exercise control and share in profits and losses in
163 proportion to their contribution to the enterprise.

164 (j) "Minority" means a person who is a citizen or
165 lawful permanent resident of the United States and who is:

166 (i) Black: having origins in any of the black
167 racial groups of Africa.

168 (ii) Hispanic: of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban,
169 Central or South American, or other Spanish or Portuguese culture
170 or origin regardless of race.

171 (iii) Asian American: having origins in any of
172 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian
173 subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands.

174 (iv) American Indian or Alaskan Native: having
175 origins in any of the original peoples of North America.

176 (v) Female.

177 (k) "Minority business enterprise" or "minority owned
178 business" means a socially and economically disadvantaged small
179 business concern organized for profit performing a commercially
180 useful function which is owned and controlled by one or more
181 individuals or minority business enterprises certified by the
182 office, at least seventy-five percent (75%) of whom are resident
183 citizens of the State of Mississippi. For purposes of this
184 subparagraph, the term "socially and economically disadvantaged
185 small business concern" shall have the meaning ascribed to such
186 term under the Small Business Act (15 USCS, Section 637(a)). Owned
187 and controlled means a business in which one or more minorities or
188 minority business enterprises certified by the office own at least
189 fifty-one percent (51%) or in the case of a corporation at least
190 fifty-one percent (51%) of the voting stock and control at least
191 fifty-one percent (51%) of the management and daily business
192 operations of the business.



193 (l) "Office" means the Office of Minority Business
194 Enterprises of the Mississippi Development Authority.

195 (m) "Procurement" means the purchase, lease, or rental
196 of any goods or services.

197 (n) "Commodities" means the various items described in
198 Section 31-7-1(e).

199 (o) "Professional services" means all personal service
200 contracts utilized by state agencies and institutions.

201 (p) "Small business" means a small business as defined
202 by the Small Business Administration of the United States
203 government which for purposes of size eligibility or other factors
204 meets the applicable criteria set forth in Part 121 of Title 13 of
205 the Code of Federal Regulations as amended, and which has its
206 principal place of business in Mississippi.

207 (q) "State agency" includes the State of Mississippi
208 and all agencies, departments, offices, divisions, boards,
209 commissions, and correctional and other types of institutions.

210 "State agency" does not include the judicial or legislative
211 branches of government except to the extent that procurement or
212 public works for these branches is performed by a state agency.

213 **SECTION 3.** Section 57-69-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
214 amended as follows:

215 57-69-7. The Executive Director of the Mississippi
216 Development Authority shall certify minority business enterprises
217 that qualify as such. The director shall establish criteria by
218 which minority business enterprises may qualify for certification.

219 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
220 and after July 1, 2002.

