

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2400
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 33-15-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO CLARIFY THE TIME A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IS EFFECTIVE, AND
3 TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR TO COLLECT INFORMATION FOR AN ASSESSMENT
4 OF VULNERABILITIES WITHIN THE BORDERS OF MISSISSIPPI AS IT
5 PERTAINS TO THE NATIONAL AND STATE SECURITY AND HOMELAND DEFENSE;
6 TO AMEND SECTION 75-24-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY
7 THE CRITERIA FOR PRICE RESTRICTIONS DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY;
8 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 33-15-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 33-15-11. (a) The Governor shall have general direction and
13 control of the activities of the Emergency Management Agency and
14 Council and shall be responsible for the carrying out of the
15 provisions of this article, and in the event of a man-made,
16 technological or natural disaster or emergency beyond local
17 control, may assume direct operational control over all or any
18 part of the emergency management functions within this state.

19 (b) In performing his duties under this article, the
20 Governor is further authorized and empowered:

21 (1) To make, amend and rescind the necessary orders,
22 rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this article
23 with due consideration of the plans of the federal government, and
24 to enter into disaster assistance grants and agreements with the
25 federal government under the terms as may be required by federal
26 law.

27 (2) To work with the Mississippi Emergency Management
28 Agency in preparing a comprehensive plan and program for the
29 emergency management of this state, such plan and program to be
30 integrated into and coordinated with the emergency management



31 plans of the federal government and of other states to the fullest
32 possible extent, and to coordinate the preparation of plans and
33 programs for emergency management by the political subdivisions of
34 this state, such local plans to be integrated into and coordinated
35 with the emergency management plan and program of this state to
36 the fullest possible extent.

37 (3) In accordance with such plan and program for
38 emergency management of this state, to ascertain the requirements
39 of the state or the political subdivisions thereof for food or
40 clothing or other necessities of life in the event of attack or
41 natural or man-made or technological disasters and to plan for and
42 procure supplies, medicines, materials and equipment, and to use
43 and employ from time to time any of the property, services and
44 resources within the state, for the purposes set forth in this
45 article; to make surveys of the industries, resources and
46 facilities within the state as are necessary to carry out the
47 purposes of this article; to institute training programs and
48 public information programs, and to take all other preparatory
49 steps, including the partial or full mobilization of emergency
50 management organizations in advance of actual disaster, to insure
51 the furnishing of adequately trained and equipped forces of
52 emergency management personnel in time of need.

53 (4) To cooperate with the President and the heads of
54 the Armed Forces, and the Emergency Management Agency of the
55 United States, and with the officers and agencies of other states
56 in matters pertaining to the emergency management of the state and
57 nation and the incidents thereof; and in connection therewith, to
58 take any measures which he may deem proper to carry into effect
59 any request of the President and the appropriate federal officers
60 and agencies, for any action looking to emergency management,
61 including the direction or control of (a) blackouts and practice
62 blackouts, air raid drills, mobilization of emergency management
63 forces, and other tests and exercises, (b) warnings and signals



64 for drills or attacks and the mechanical devices to be used in
65 connection therewith, (c) the effective screening or extinguishing
66 of all lights and lighting devices and appliances, (d) shutting
67 off water mains, gas mains, electric power connections and the
68 suspension of all other utility services, (e) the conduct of
69 civilians and the movement and cessation of movement of
70 pedestrians and vehicular traffic during, prior and subsequent to
71 drills or attack, (f) public meetings or gatherings under
72 emergency conditions, and (g) the evacuation and reception of the
73 civilian population.

74 (5) To take such action and give such directions to
75 state and local law enforcement officers and agencies as may be
76 reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance
77 with the provisions of this article and with the orders, rules and
78 regulations made pursuant thereto.

79 (6) To employ such measures and give such directions to
80 the state or local boards of health as may be reasonably necessary
81 for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this
82 article or with the findings or recommendations of such boards of
83 health by reason of conditions arising from enemy attack or the
84 threat of enemy attack or natural, man-made or technological
85 disaster.

86 (7) To utilize the services and facilities of existing
87 officers and agencies of the state and of the political
88 subdivisions thereof; and all such officers and agencies shall
89 cooperate with and extend their services and facilities to the
90 Governor as he may request.

91 (8) To establish agencies and offices and to appoint
92 executive, technical, clerical and other personnel as may be
93 necessary to carry out the provisions of this article including,
94 with due consideration to the recommendation of the local
95 authorities, part-time or full-time state and regional area
96 directors.



97 (9) To delegate any authority vested in him under this
98 article, and to provide for the subdelegation of any such
99 authority.

100 (10) On behalf of this state to enter into reciprocal
101 aid agreements or compacts with other states and the federal
102 government, either on a statewide basis or local political
103 subdivision basis or with a neighboring state or province of a
104 foreign country. Such mutual aid arrangements shall be limited to
105 the furnishings or exchange of food, clothing, medicine and other
106 supplies; engineering services; emergency housing; police
107 services; national or state guards while under the control of the
108 state; health, medical and related services; fire fighting,
109 rescue, transportation and construction services and equipment;
110 personnel necessary to provide or conduct these services; and such
111 other supplies, equipment, facilities, personnel and services as
112 may be needed; the reimbursement of costs and expenses for
113 equipment, supplies, personnel and similar items for mobile
114 support units, fire fighting and police units and health units;
115 and on such terms and conditions as are deemed necessary.

116 (11) To sponsor and develop mutual aid plans and
117 agreements between the political subdivisions of the state,
118 similar to the mutual aid arrangements with other states referred
119 to above.

120 (12) To collect information and data for assessment of
121 vulnerabilities and capabilities within the borders of Mississippi
122 as it pertains to the nation and state's security and homeland
123 defense. This information shall be exempt from the Mississippi
124 Public Records Act, Section 25-61-1 et seq.

125 (13) Authorize any agency or arm of the state to create
126 a special emergency management revolving fund, accept donations,
127 contributions, fees, grants, including federal funds, as may be
128 necessary for such agency or arm of the state to administer its



129 functions of this article as set forth in the Executive Order of
130 the Governor.

131 (14) To authorize the Commissioner of Public Safety to
132 select, train, organize and equip a ready reserve of auxiliary
133 highway patrolmen.

134 (15) To suspend or limit the sale, dispensing or
135 transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and
136 combustibles.

137 (16) To control, restrict and regulate by rationing,
138 freezing, use of quotas, prohibitions on shipments, price fixing,
139 allocation or other means, the use, sale or distribution of food,
140 feed, fuel, clothing and other commodities, materials, goods or
141 services.

142 (17) To proclaim a state of emergency in an area
143 affected or likely to be affected thereby when he finds that the
144 conditions described in Section 33-15-5(g) exist, or when he is
145 requested to do so by the mayor of a municipality or by the
146 president of the board of supervisors of a county, or when he
147 finds that a local authority is unable to cope with the emergency.
148 Such proclamation shall be in writing and shall take effect
149 immediately upon its execution by the Governor. As soon
150 thereafter as possible, such proclamation shall be filed with the
151 Secretary of State and be given widespread notice and publicity.
152 The Governor, upon advice of the director, shall review the need
153 for continuing the state of emergency at least every thirty (30)
154 days until the emergency is terminated and shall proclaim the
155 termination of the state of emergency at the earliest possible
156 date that conditions warrant.

157 (c) In addition to the powers conferred upon the Governor in
158 this section, the Legislature hereby expressly delegates to the
159 Governor the following powers and duties in the event of an
160 impending enemy attack, an enemy attack, or a man-made,



161 technological or natural disaster where such disaster is beyond
162 local control:

163 (1) To suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute
164 prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the
165 orders, rules or regulations of any state agency, if strict
166 compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or
167 regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary
168 action in coping with a disaster or emergency.

169 (2) To transfer the direction, personnel or functions
170 of state agencies, boards, commissions or units thereof for the
171 purpose of performing or facilitating disaster or emergency
172 services.

173 (3) To commandeer or utilize any private property if
174 necessary to cope with a disaster or emergency, provided that such
175 private property so commandeered or utilized shall be paid for
176 under terms and conditions agreed upon by the participating
177 parties. The owner of said property shall immediately be given a
178 receipt for the said private property and said receipt shall serve
179 as a valid claim against the Treasury of the State of Mississippi
180 for the agreed upon market value of said property.

181 (4) To perform and exercise such other functions,
182 powers and duties as may be necessary to promote and secure the
183 safety and protection of the civilian population in coping with a
184 disaster or emergency.

185 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-24-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
186 amended as follows:

187 75-24-25. (1) For the purposes of this section, the
188 following terms shall have the meanings herein ascribed:

189 (a) "Person" means a natural person, corporation,
190 trust, partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, or
191 any other legal entity.

192 (b) "State of emergency" means the duly proclaimed
193 existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety



194 of persons or property within the state caused by air or water
195 pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, earthquake, hurricane,
196 resource shortages or other natural or man-made conditions other
197 than conditions causing a "state of war emergency," which
198 conditions by reasons of their magnitude are or are likely to be
199 beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and
200 facilities of any single county and/or municipality and require
201 combined forces of the state to combat.

202 (c) "Local emergency" means the duly proclaimed
203 existence of conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety
204 of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county
205 and/or municipality caused by such conditions as air or water
206 pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, earthquake, hurricane,
207 resource shortages or other natural or man-made conditions, which
208 conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the
209 services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the political
210 subdivision and require the combined forces of other subdivisions
211 or of the state to combat.

212 (d) "Value received" means the consideration or payment
213 given for the purchase of goods and services.

214 (2) Whenever, under the Mississippi Emergency Management
215 Law, Sections 33-15-1 through 33-15-49, a state of emergency or a
216 local emergency is declared to exist in this state, then the value
217 received for all goods and services sold within the designated
218 emergency area shall not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for
219 comparable goods or services in the same market area at or
220 immediately before the declaration of a state of emergency or
221 local emergency. However, the value received may include:
222 any * * * expenses, * * * the cost of the goods and services which
223 are necessarily incurred in procuring such goods and services
224 during a state of emergency or local emergency. The prices
225 ordinarily charged for comparable goods or services in the same
226 market area do not include temporarily discounted goods or



227 services. The same market area does not necessarily mean a single
228 provider of goods or services.

229 (3) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates
230 subsection (2) of this section, when the value unlawfully received
231 is Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) or more, shall be guilty of
232 a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by confinement for
233 a term of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years
234 or a fine of not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or
235 both.

236 (4) Any person who knowingly and willfully violates
237 subsection (2) of this section, when the value unlawfully received
238 is less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00), shall be guilty
239 of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than
240 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the county
241 jail for a term not to exceed six (6) months, or both.

242 (5) In addition to the criminal penalties prescribed in
243 subsections (3) and (4), any knowing and willful violation of
244 subsection (2) of this section shall be considered an unfair or
245 deceptive trade practice subject to and governed by all the
246 procedures and remedies available under the provisions of this
247 chapter for enforcement of prohibited acts and practices contained
248 therein.

249 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
250 and after its passage.

