

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Ports and Marine Resources

SENATE BILL NO. 2666

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 57-15-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY DEFINITION OF COASTAL PRESERVE SYSTEM FOR CONTRACT
3 PURPOSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 57-15-5. (1) It is hereby declared to be the intent of the
8 Legislature by this chapter that the policy of the council hereby
9 created shall be conducted according to the following guidelines:
10 the council shall have the general purpose and policy of studying
11 and developing plans, proposals, reports and recommendations for
12 the development and utilization of the coastal and offshore lands,
13 waters and marine resources of this state in order to insure that
14 all future plans and/or programs of the State of Mississippi
15 involving the field of marine resources and sciences,
16 oceanographic research, and related studies, will be coordinated
17 with comparable functions and programs of agencies of the United
18 States government. The council shall further have the purpose and
19 policy to help coordinate, as hereinabove provided, all plans of
20 other agencies of this state engaged in similar activities and of
21 the various states of the United States of America, and also with
22 all private agencies whose purpose is marine science and resource
23 development. The council is further authorized to enter into
24 contract with any state or federal agency as may be necessary and
25 requisite to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The council
26 shall have the responsibility for the general management of the
27 state's wetlands.



28 (2) The council is authorized and empowered to solicit and
29 accept financial support from sources other than the state,
30 including private or public sources or foundations. All funds
31 received by or appropriated to the council shall be deposited upon
32 receipt thereof into a special fund in the State Treasury to be
33 known and designated as the "Mississippi Marine Resources Fund."
34 Expenditures from said fund shall be made in the following manner:
35 expenditures by and for the council for the purpose of carrying
36 out its functions as provided by law shall be made with the
37 approval of the council at any meeting upon requisitions presented
38 to the State Auditor in the manner provided by law, and paid by
39 the State Treasurer. Full and complete accounting shall be kept
40 and made by the council for all funds received and expended by it.
41 Representatives of the office of the State Auditor of Public
42 Accounts annually shall audit the expenditure of funds received by
43 the council from all sources and the said auditor shall make a
44 complete and detailed report of such audit to the Legislature. It
45 is further provided that all state appropriated funds expended
46 shall conform to all requirements of law as provided for
47 expenditures.

48 (3) The council may solicit, receive and expend
49 contributions, matching funds, gifts, bequests and devises from
50 any source, whether federal, state, public or private, as
51 authorized by annual appropriations therefor.

52 (4) The council may enter into agreements with federal,
53 state, public or private agencies, departments, institutions,
54 firms, corporations or persons to carry out its policies as
55 provided for in this chapter. To accomplish these goals, the
56 council may expend any such sums from any source as herein
57 provided.

58 The agreements provided for in this subsection shall include,
59 but not be limited to, the following provisions:

60 (a) The duration of the agreement;



- 61 (b) The purpose of the agreement;
- 62 (c) A description of the procedures to be used in
63 carrying out the purpose of the agreement; and
- 64 (d) Provisions for termination of the agreement.

65 Any entity entering into such an agreement shall comply with
66 the provisions therein.

67 (5) The council is authorized and empowered to accept
68 financial support from any federal outer continental shelf revenue
69 sharing programs. All funds received from such programs shall be
70 deposited upon receipt thereof into a special trust fund in the
71 State Treasury to be known and designated as the "Outer
72 Continental Shelf Trust Fund." Expenditures from said fund shall
73 be made for the benefit of any project affecting any county in the
74 State of Mississippi which borders on the Gulf of Mexico with the
75 approval of the Legislature.

76 (6) The council may contract with other governmental
77 agencies and third parties for the acquisition and management of
78 lands and properties for inclusion in the "Coastal Preserve
79 System." For purposes of these contracts with other governmental
80 agencies or third parties and the expenditure of funds pursuant to
81 the contracts, the "Coastal Preserve System" as defined by the
82 council shall be deemed to be a part of the ecosystems of the
83 Public Trust Tidelands. Contracts authorized under this section
84 may provide funds for the management of properties included in the
85 "Coastal Preserve System."

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after its passage.

