

By: Senator(s) Williamson

To: Agriculture;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2765

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A POULTRY GROWERS GRIEVANCE BOARD; TO
2 PROVIDE FOR GRIEVANCES TO BE HEARD; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
5 Mississippi Poultry Growers Grievance Act.

6 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act:

7 (a) "Board" means the Poultry Growers Grievance Review
8 Board created in this act.

9 (b) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the
10 Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

11 (c) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
12 Agriculture and Commerce.

13 (d) "Grower" means a person who grows, raises or
14 produces poultry or poultry products and contracts with a
15 processor to provide management, labor, machinery, facilities or
16 any other production input for the production of poultry or
17 poultry products.

18 (e) "Person" means any individual, partnership,
19 association, corporation, limited liability company, or any other
20 legal entity.

21 (f) "Processor" means a person who in the ordinary
22 course of business, buys poultry or poultry products grown, raised
23 or produced in this state or who contracts with a grower to grow,
24 raise or produce poultry or poultry products in this state.

25 **SECTION 3.** There is hereby created the Mississippi Poultry
26 Growers Grievance Review Board with domicile at the capital city
27 of the state. The board shall be composed of six (6) members:



28 one (1) member shall be the Commissioner of Agriculture and
29 Commerce as ex officio member. One (1) member shall be appointed
30 from each congressional district and the remainder from the state
31 at large. The commissioner shall appoint the members to terms of
32 one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years,
33 respectively, so as to stagger the terms. After the expiration of
34 the initial terms, the terms shall be for four (4) years. Each
35 member shall serve, after the completion of his term, until his
36 successor is appointed and duly qualified. Each vacancy shall be
37 filled by appointment for the unexpired term.

38 **SECTION 4.** The powers and duties of the board shall include,
39 but be not limited to, the following:

40 (a) To hear grievances of growers and producers. The
41 grievance procedure shall be voluntary.

42 (b) All material, data and information received by the
43 board with respect to any grievance filed under this act are
44 confidential and not subject to the Public Records Act. No
45 official or employee of the board may knowingly disclose any such
46 information without the consent of the parties involved.

47 (d) The state shall bear the cost of the grievance
48 process including the cost of all meetings.

49 (e) Each session of the grievance process shall be
50 scheduled in a timely manner and shall be held in a location
51 convenient to the parties involved.

52 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2003.

