

By: Representatives Stevens, Ellington,
Howell, Lott, Formby, Moore, Martinson

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1181

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
2 TO SEEK AN ENTITY TO PURCHASE AND CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF
3 MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE AND
4 TRANSFER OF MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION TO THE ENTITY; TO
5 AMEND SECTION 37-63-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT
6 AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSFERRED THE OPERATION OF MISSISSIPPI
7 EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION TO AN ENTITY, SECTIONS 37-63-1 THROUGH
8 37-63-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE
9 OPERATION OF MISSISSIPPI EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION, SHALL STAND
10 REPEALED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Department of Finance and Administration
13 shall seek a responsible entity to purchase and continue the
14 operation of Mississippi Educational Television (METV). After the
15 department has found such an entity, the department shall sell and
16 transfer the real and personal property associated with METV to
17 the entity for not less than the current fair market value as
18 determined by the averaging of at least two (2) appraisals by
19 professional appraisers who are licensed by the Mississippi Real
20 Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board. The
21 department shall deposit the proceeds from the sale into the State
22 General Fund.

23 (2) After METV is sold to the entity, no state funds shall
24 be provided to the entity through appropriations, grants or bonds
25 for the operation of METV; however, the State of Mississippi shall
26 continue to be liable for payment of the principal and interest on
27 any state general obligation bonds that provided any money to or
28 financed any projects for METV.

29 (3) All contracts to which the Authority for Educational
30 Television is a party that are in existence at the time of the
31 sale and transfer of METV to the entity shall be transferred to

32 the entity, which shall assume all duties and responsibilities of
33 the authority under those contracts.

34 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-63-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
35 amended as follows:

36 37-63-1. (1) It is declared to be the legislative purpose
37 of this chapter, and the public policy of the State of
38 Mississippi, that there be established and developed in the public
39 interest an educational television and radio system which shall
40 provide educational and instructional, professional growth, and
41 public service programs for the students and citizens of
42 Mississippi, such system to be known as Mississippi Educational
43 Television. The Legislature therefore declares and determines
44 that for these and other related purposes there is hereby
45 established an agency of state government to be known as the
46 Mississippi authority for educational television which shall have
47 the responsibility for the administration, operation, control and
48 supervision of educational television and radio in Mississippi.

49 (2) After the Department of Finance and Administration has
50 transferred the operation of Mississippi Educational Television to
51 an entity as provided in Section 1 of this act, Sections 37-63-1
52 through 37-63-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, shall stand repealed.

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