

By: Representative Watson

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1190

1 AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM
2 COMMISSION AND TRANSFER ITS DUTIES TO THE JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
3 STADIUM COMMISSION, WHICH SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY JACKSON STATE
4 UNIVERSITY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STADIUM SHALL BE UNDER THE
5 EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OF THE JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY STADIUM
6 COMMISSION; TO AMEND SECTION 55-23-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
7 CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium
10 Commission is abolished on July 1, 2005, and all records, duties,
11 responsibilities, assets, contractual rights and obligations,
12 property rights and any unexpended balances of appropriations that
13 are vested on June 30, 2005, in the Mississippi Veterans Memorial
14 Stadium Commission, are vested on July 1, 2005, in the Jackson
15 State University Stadium Commission established under subsection
16 (2) of this section. From and after July 1, 2005, the Mississippi
17 Veterans Memorial Stadium shall be under the exclusive
18 jurisdiction of the Jackson State University Stadium Commission,
19 and the Jackson State University Stadium Commission shall assume
20 all liabilities and indebtedness of the stadium. The Jackson
21 State University Stadium Commission is authorized to enter into
22 any contractual agreement for the purpose of leasing the stadium
23 to provide revenue to help retire any indebtedness of the stadium.
24 However, the Legislature, in its discretion, may retire all
25 obligations on the stadium by making an appropriation for that
26 purpose from the State General Fund. In no event shall the
27 appropriation for the upkeep of the stadium be less than the
28 fiscal year 2005 appropriation made to the Mississippi Veterans
29 Memorial Stadium Commission for its operation.

30 (2) Jackson State University, with the advice of the Board
31 of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, shall
32 establish a commission to be known as the Jackson State University
33 Stadium Commission, which shall operate and maintain the
34 Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium. Whenever the term
35 "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Commission," "Stadium
36 Commission" or "commission," when referring to the Mississippi
37 Veterans Memorial Stadium Commission, is used in any statute,
38 rule, regulation or document, the term shall be construed to mean
39 the Jackson State University Stadium Commission established under
40 this subsection.

41 **SECTION 2.** Section 55-23-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 55-23-5. * * *

44 (1) * * * From and after May 1, 1987, the stadium shall be
45 known as the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium." * * *

46 * * *

47 (2) * * * The commission shall contract with a certified
48 public accounting firm to conduct audits of concession and novelty
49 sales by vendors at the stadium, and shall, as far as is
50 practicable, provide that the cost of those audits shall be paid
51 by the vendor of those concessions or novelties, or both.

52 (3) The commission may appoint a director of the stadium,
53 who shall have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited
54 university or college. The director shall have the responsibility
55 for insuring the marketing of tickets to events conducted in the
56 stadium, in addition to such other duties as the commission may
57 designate. Before entering upon the duties of his office, the
58 director shall give bond to the State of Mississippi in the sum of
59 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), and the bond shall be
60 conditioned upon the faithful discharge and performance of his
61 official duty. The principal and surety on the bond shall be
62 liable under the bond to the state for double the amount of value

63 of any money or property that the state may lose, if any, by
64 reason of any wrongful or criminal act of the director. The bond,
65 when approved by the commission, shall be filed with the Secretary
66 of State, and the premium on the bond shall be paid from the
67 Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating Fund.

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