

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2158

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 55-23-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROHIBIT THE MISSISSIPPI VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM COMMISSION FROM  
3 CHARGING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY ANY FEE FOR THE USE OF THE  
4 STADIUM AT ATHLETIC EVENTS WHEN THE UNIVERSITY IS THE HOME OR  
5 VISITING TEAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 55-23-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 55-23-9. The commission shall operate the Mississippi  
10 Veterans Memorial Stadium and to that end may employ such agents  
11 and employees as may be required in connection therewith. It may  
12 enter into contracts for the use of the stadium, and fix the  
13 amount of the compensation therefor, and collect the same when  
14 due. The commission may take any action authorized in Section  
15 55-23-8 relating to the Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium and  
16 the property described in Section 55-23-8.

17 All monies and revenues, including the amusement tax imposed  
18 upon the sale of tickets for admission to the stadium, and all  
19 other events on stadium property and all monies arising from other  
20 use of stadium property, including that realized from the sale of  
21 concessions, shall be paid by the commission to the State  
22 Treasurer, to be placed to the credit of a special fund to be  
23 known as the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating  
24 Fund" and any references in the laws to the "Mississippi Memorial  
25 Stadium Fund" or the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Fund"  
26 shall mean the "Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating  
27 Fund" unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Any  
28 interest earned on amounts deposited in the Mississippi Veterans

29 Memorial Stadium Operating Fund shall be credited to such special  
30 fund. Provided, however, that twenty-five percent (25%) of all  
31 profits realized by the commission from the sale of concessions at  
32 athletic events when Jackson State University is the home team  
33 shall be deposited to the credit of a special auxiliary fund and  
34 authorized for expenditure by the Board of Trustees of State  
35 Institutions of Higher Learning exclusively for the support of  
36 intercollegiate athletics at such university. Provided further,  
37 that the commission shall not charge Jackson State University any  
38 fee for the use of the stadium at athletic events when Jackson  
39 State University is the home or visiting team, and any operating  
40 expenses incurred by the commission for the use of stadium  
41 property at such events shall be paid from the Mississippi  
42 Veterans Memorial Stadium Operating Fund. All expenses incident  
43 to the operation and upkeep of the facilities and property managed  
44 by the commission shall be paid out of the Mississippi Veterans  
45 Memorial Stadium Operating Fund by warrants drawn by the  
46 Department of Finance and Administration, which shall be issued on  
47 the requisition of the commission.

48 All tickets sold to an event conducted in the Mississippi  
49 Veterans Memorial Stadium shall have printed in an appropriate and  
50 prominent place thereon the words A.C. "Butch" Lambert Field.

51 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
52 and after July 1, 2005.