

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Environment Prot, Cons
and Water Res; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2955

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-1-165, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE A STATEWIDE TOLL-FREE HOTLINE FOR REPORTING LITTERING
3 VIOLATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 65-1-165, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 65-1-165. The State Highway Department is hereby authorized
8 to execute a contract with Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc., to
9 develop and implement a comprehensive statewide program of litter
10 prevention. The contract shall contain provisions to require that
11 Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc., will:

12 (a) Encourage and assist local communities to become
13 certified Keep America Beautiful systems.

14 (b) Serve as a state clearinghouse of information on
15 ideas and projects to make local litter prevention programs more
16 effective.

17 (c) Implement statewide communication programs to alert
18 people to the problem of littering and how it can be corrected.

19 (d) Coordinate an annual statewide project which will
20 heighten public awareness of the problem of littering.

21 (e) Establish an annual awards program to recognize
22 individual and community achievement in litter prevention.

23 (f) Serve as the authority which approves and disburses
24 financial assistance to any nonprofit corporation, county or
25 municipality which, in a written application, seeks such
26 assistance to implement a local litter prevention project. The
27 financial assistance authorized herein shall not exceed forty

28 percent (40%) of the cost of the local litter prevention project
29 for which such assistance is sought.

30 (g) Encourage donation of funds from the private sector
31 to assist in defraying the operation of the litter prevention
32 program implemented pursuant to this section.

33 (h) to establish and maintain a statewide toll-free
34 hotline for reporting littering violations.

35 The contract may include any additional provisions which the
36 highway department deems necessary to effectuate the litter
37 prevention program contemplated by this section.

38 Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc., shall submit to the highway
39 department on or before August 1 of each year a written report
40 detailing the operation of the litter prevention program statewide
41 and its expenditure of monies for such program during the
42 preceding state fiscal year.

43 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
44 and after July 1, 2007.