

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1103

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. Section 69-2-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

69-2-13. (1) There is hereby established in the State Treasury a fund to be known as the "Emerging Crops Fund," which shall be used to pay the interest on loans made to farmers for nonland capital costs of establishing production of emerging crops on land in Mississippi, and to make loans and grants which are authorized under this section to be made from the fund. The fund shall be administered by the Mississippi Development Authority. A board comprised of the directors of the authority, the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service, the Mississippi Small Farm Development Center and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, or their designees, shall develop definitions, guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this chapter. Funds for the Emerging Crops Fund shall be provided from the issuance of bonds or notes under Sections 69-2-19 through 69-2-37 and from repayment of interest loans made from the fund.

(2) (a) The Mississippi Development Authority shall develop a program which gives fair consideration to making loans for the processing and manufacturing of goods and services by agribusiness, greenhouse production horticulture, and small business concerns. It is the policy of the State of Mississippi that the Mississippi Development Authority shall give due recognition to and shall aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of agribusiness, greenhouse production horticulture, and small business concerns. To ensure

33 that the purposes of this subsection are carried out, the
34 Mississippi Development Authority shall loan not more than One
35 Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to finance any single
36 agribusiness, greenhouse production horticulture, or small
37 business concern. Loans made pursuant to this subsection shall be
38 made in accordance with the criteria established in Section
39 57-71-11.

40 (b) The Mississippi Development Authority may, out of
41 the total amount of bonds authorized to be issued under this
42 chapter, make available funds to any planning and development
43 district in accordance with the criteria established in Section
44 57-71-11. Planning and development districts which receive monies
45 pursuant to this provision shall use such monies to make loans to
46 private companies for purposes consistent with this subsection.

47 (c) The Mississippi Development Authority is hereby
48 authorized to engage legal services, financial advisors,
49 appraisers and consultants if needed to review and close loans
50 made hereunder and to establish and assess reasonable fees,
51 including, but not limited to, liquidation expenses.

52 (3) (a) The Mississippi Development Authority shall, in
53 addition to the other programs described in this section, provide
54 for a program of loans to be made to agribusiness or greenhouse
55 production horticulture enterprises for the purpose of encouraging
56 thereby the extension of conventional financing and the issuance
57 of letters of credit to such agribusiness or greenhouse production
58 horticulture enterprises by private institutions. Monies to make
59 such loans by the Mississippi Development Authority shall be drawn
60 from the Emerging Crops Fund. The amount of a loan to any single
61 agribusiness or greenhouse production horticulture enterprise
62 under this paragraph (a) shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of
63 the total cost of the project for which financing is sought or Two
64 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), whichever is less. No
65 interest shall be charged on such loans, and only the amount
66 actually loaned shall be required to be repaid. Repayments shall
67 be deposited into the Emerging Crops Fund.

(b) The Mississippi Development Authority shall, in addition to the other programs described in this section, provide for a program of loans or loan guaranties, or both, to be made to or on behalf of any agribusiness enterprise engaged in beef processing for the purpose of encouraging thereby the extension of conventional financing and the issuance of letters of credit to such agribusiness enterprises by private institutions. Monies to make such loans or loan guaranties, or both, by the Mississippi Development Authority shall be drawn from the Emerging Crops Fund and shall not exceed Thirty-five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000.00) in the aggregate. The amount of a loan to any single agribusiness enterprise or loan guaranty on behalf of such agribusiness enterprise, or both, under this paragraph (b) shall not exceed the total cost of the project for which financing is sought or Thirty-five Million Dollars (\$35,000,000.00), whichever is less. The interest charged on a loan made under this paragraph (b) shall be at a rate determined by the Mississippi Development Authority. All repayments of any loan made under this paragraph (b) shall be deposited into the Emerging Crops Fund. Assistance received by an agribusiness enterprise under this paragraph (b) shall not disqualify the agribusiness enterprise from obtaining any other assistance under this chapter.

(4) (a) Through June 30, 2010, the Mississippi Development Authority may loan or grant to qualified planning and development districts, and to small business investment corporations, bank-based community development corporations, the Recruitment and Training Program, Inc., the City of Jackson Business Development Loan Fund, the Lorman Southwest Mississippi Development Corporation, the West Jackson Community Development Corporation, the East Mississippi Development Corporation, and other entities meeting the criteria established by the Mississippi Development Authority (all referred to hereinafter as "qualified entities"), funds for the purpose of establishing loan revolving funds to assist in providing financing for minority economic development. The monies loaned or granted by the Mississippi Development

Authority shall be drawn from the Emerging Crops Fund and shall not exceed Twenty-six Million Dollars (\$26,000,000.00) in the aggregate. Planning and development districts or qualified entities which receive monies pursuant to this provision shall use such monies to make loans to minority business enterprises consistent with criteria established by the Mississippi Development Authority. Such criteria shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) The business enterprise must be a private, for-profit enterprise.

(ii) If the business enterprise is a proprietorship, the borrower must be a resident citizen of the State of Mississippi; if the business enterprise is a corporation or partnership, at least fifty percent (50%) of the owners must be resident citizens of the State of Mississippi.

(iii) The borrower must have at least five percent (5%) equity interest in the business enterprise.

(iv) The borrower must demonstrate ability to repay the loan.

(v) The borrower must not be in default of any previous loan from the state or federal government.

(vi) Loan proceeds may be used for financing all project costs associated with development or expansion of a new small business, including fixed assets, working capital, start-up costs, rental payments, interest expense during construction and professional fees related to the project.

(vii) Loan proceeds shall not be used to pay off existing debt for loan consolidation purposes; to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement or operation of real property which is to be held primarily for sale or investment; to provide for, or free funds, for speculation in any kind of property; or as a loan to owners, partners or stockholders of the applicant which do not change ownership interest by the applicant. However, this does not apply to ordinary compensation for services rendered in the course of business.

(viii) The maximum amount that may be loaned to any one (1) borrower shall be Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00).

(ix) The Mississippi Development Authority shall review each loan before it is made, and no loan shall be made to any borrower until the loan has been reviewed and approved by the Mississippi Development Authority.

(b) For the purpose of this subsection, the term "minority business enterprise" means a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern, organized for profit, performing a commercially useful function which is owned and controlled by one or more minorities or minority business enterprises certified by the Mississippi Development Authority, at least fifty percent (50%) of whom are resident citizens of the State of Mississippi. Except as otherwise provided, for purposes of this subsection, the term "socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern" shall have the meaning ascribed to such term under the Small Business Act (15 USCS, Section 637(a)), or women, and the term "owned and controlled" means a business in which one or more minorities or minority business enterprises certified by the Mississippi Development Authority own sixty percent (60%) or, in the case of a corporation, sixty percent (60%) of the voting stock, and control sixty percent (60%) of the management and daily business operations of the business. However, an individual whose personal net worth exceeds Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) shall not be considered to be an economically disadvantaged individual.

From and after July 1, 2010, monies not loaned or granted by the Mississippi Development Authority to planning and development districts or qualified entities under this subsection, and monies not loaned by planning and development districts or qualified entities, shall be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund created and maintained in the State Treasury for the retirement of bonds issued under Section 69-2-19.

173 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
174 subsection to the contrary, if federal funds are not available for
175 commitments made by a planning and development district to provide
176 assistance under any federal loan program administered by the
177 planning and development district in coordination with the
178 Appalachian Regional Commission or Economic Development
179 Administration, or both, a planning and development district may
180 use funds in its loan revolving fund, which have not been
181 committed otherwise to provide assistance, for the purpose of
182 providing temporary funding for such commitments. If a planning
183 and development district uses uncommitted funds in its loan
184 revolving fund to provide such temporary funding, the district
185 shall use funds repaid to the district under the temporarily
186 funded federal loan program to replenish the funds used to provide
187 the temporary funding. Funds used by a planning and development
188 district to provide temporary funding under this paragraph (c)
189 must be repaid to the district's loan revolving fund no later than
190 twelve (12) months after the date the district provides the
191 temporary funding. A planning and development district may not
192 use uncommitted funds in its loan revolving fund to provide
193 temporary funding under this paragraph (c) on more than two (2)
194 occasions during a calendar year. A planning and development
195 district may provide temporary funding for multiple commitments on
196 each such occasion. The maximum aggregate amount of uncommitted
197 funds in a loan revolving fund that may be used for such purposes
198 during a calendar year shall not exceed seventy percent (70%) of
199 the uncommitted funds in the loan revolving fund on the date the
200 district first provides temporary funding during the calendar
201 year.

202 (d) If the Mississippi Development Authority determines
203 that a planning and development district or qualified entity has
204 provided loans to minority businesses in a manner inconsistent
205 with the provisions of this subsection, then the amount of such
206 loans so provided shall be withheld by the Mississippi Development
207 Authority from any additional grant funds to which the planning

208 and development district or qualified entity becomes entitled
209 under this subsection. If the Mississippi Development Authority
210 determines, after notifying such planning and development district
211 or qualified entity twice in writing and providing such planning
212 and development district or qualified entity a reasonable
213 opportunity to comply, that a planning and development district or
214 qualified entity has consistently failed to comply with this
215 subsection, the Mississippi Development Authority may declare such
216 planning and development district or qualified entity in default
217 under this subsection and, upon receipt of notice thereof from the
218 Mississippi Development Authority, such planning and development
219 district or qualified entity shall immediately cease providing
220 loans under this subsection, shall refund to the Mississippi
221 Development Authority for distribution to other planning and
222 development districts or qualified entities all funds held in its
223 revolving loan fund and, if required by the Mississippi
224 Development Authority, shall convey to the Mississippi Development
225 Authority all administrative and management control of loans
226 provided by it under this subsection.

227 (e) If the Mississippi Development Authority
228 determines, after notifying a planning and development district or
229 qualified entity twice in writing and providing copies of such
230 notification to each member of the Legislature in whose district
231 or in a part of whose district such planning and development
232 district or qualified entity is located and providing such
233 planning and development district or qualified entity a reasonable
234 opportunity to take corrective action, that a planning and
235 development district or qualified entity administering a revolving
236 loan fund under the provisions of this subsection is not actively
237 engaged in lending as defined by the rules and regulations of the
238 Mississippi Development Authority, the Mississippi Development
239 Authority may declare such planning and development district or
240 qualified entity in default under this subsection and, upon
241 receipt of notice thereof from the Mississippi Development
242 Authority, such planning and development district or qualified

entity shall immediately cease providing loans under this subsection, shall refund to the Mississippi Development Authority for distribution to other planning and development districts or qualified entities all funds held in its revolving loan fund and, if required by the Mississippi Development Authority, shall convey to the Mississippi Development Authority all administrative and management control of loans provided by it under this subsection.

(5) The Mississippi Development Authority shall develop a program which will assist minority business enterprises by guaranteeing bid, performance and payment bonds which such minority businesses are required to obtain in order to contract with federal agencies, state agencies or political subdivisions of the state. The Mississippi Development Authority may secure letters of credit, as determined necessary by the authority, to guarantee bid, performance and payment bonds pursuant to this subsection. Monies for such program shall be drawn from the monies allocated under subsection (4) of this section to assist the financing of minority economic development and shall not exceed Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) in the aggregate. The Mississippi Development Authority may promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of the program established pursuant to this subsection. For the purpose of this subsection (5) the term "minority business enterprise" has the meaning assigned such term in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) The Mississippi Development Authority may loan or grant to public entities and to nonprofit corporations funds to defray the expense of financing (or to match any funds available from other public or private sources for the expense of financing) projects in this state which are devoted to the study, teaching and/or promotion of regional crafts and which are deemed by the authority to be significant tourist attractions. The monies loaned or granted shall be drawn from the Emerging Crops Fund and shall not exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in the aggregate.

277 (7) Through June 30, 2006, the Mississippi Development
278 Authority shall make available to the Mississippi Department of
279 Agriculture and Commerce funds for the purpose of establishing
280 loan revolving funds and other methods of financing for
281 agribusiness programs administered under the Mississippi
282 Agribusiness Council Act of 1993. The monies made available by
283 the Mississippi Development Authority shall be drawn from the
284 Emerging Crops Fund and shall not exceed One Million Two Hundred
285 Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000.00) in the aggregate. The
286 Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce shall establish
287 control and auditing procedures for use of these funds. These
288 funds will be used primarily for quick payment to farmers for
289 vegetable and fruit crops processed and sold through vegetable
290 processing plants associated with the Department of Agriculture
291 and Commerce and the Mississippi State Extension Service.

292 (8) From and after July 1, 1996, the Mississippi Development
293 Authority shall make available to the Mississippi Small Farm
294 Development Center One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to be used
295 by the center to assist small entrepreneurs as provided in Section
296 37-101-25, Mississippi Code of 1972. The monies made available by
297 the Mississippi Development Authority shall be drawn from the
298 Emerging Crops Fund.

299 (9) The Mississippi Development Authority shall make
300 available to the Agribusiness and Natural Resource Development
301 Center through Alcorn State University an amount not to exceed Two
302 Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in fiscal year 2001
303 and Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in fiscal
304 year 2002 from the cash balance of the Emerging Crops Fund to
305 support the development of a cooperative program for agribusiness
306 development, marketing and natural resources development. This
307 subsection (9) shall stand repealed on June 30, 2006.

308 (10) The Mississippi Development Authority shall make
309 available to the Small Farm Development Center at Alcorn State
310 University funds in an aggregate amount not to exceed Three
311 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00), to be drawn from the cash

balance of the Emerging Crops Fund. The Small Farm Development Center at Alcorn State University shall use such funds to make loans to producers of sweet potatoes and cooperatives anywhere in the State of Mississippi owned by sweet potato producers to assist in the planting of sweet potatoes and the purchase of sweet potato production and harvesting equipment. A report of the loans made under this subsection shall be furnished by January 15 of each year to the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

(11) The Mississippi Development Authority shall make available to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce "Make Mine Mississippi" program an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to be drawn from the cash balance of the Emerging Crops Fund.

(12) The Mississippi Development Authority shall make available to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce an amount not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) to be drawn from the cash balance of the Emerging Crops Fund to be used for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Mississippi Farmers Central Market in Jackson, Mississippi.

(13) The Mississippi Development Authority shall make available to the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce an amount not to exceed Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be drawn from the cash balance of the Emerging Crops Fund to be used for advertising purposes related to the Mississippi Farmers Central Market in Jackson, Mississippi.

(14) (a) The Mississippi Development Authority shall, in addition to the other programs described in this section, provide for a program of loan guaranties to be made on behalf of any nonprofit entity qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and certified by the United States Department of the Treasury as a community development financial institution for the purpose of encouraging the extension of financing to such an entity which financing the entity will use to make funds available

347 to other entities for the purpose of making loans available in
348 low-income communities in Mississippi. Monies to make such loan
349 guaranties by the Mississippi Development Authority shall be drawn
350 from the Emerging Crops Fund and shall not exceed Two Million
351 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in the aggregate. The amount of a loan
352 guaranty on behalf of such an entity under this subsection (14)
353 shall not exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00). Assistance
354 received by an entity under this subsection (14) shall not
355 disqualify the entity from obtaining any other assistance under
356 this chapter.

357 (b) An entity desiring assistance under this subsection
358 (14) must submit an application to the Mississippi Development
359 Authority. The application must include any information required
360 by the Mississippi Development Authority.

361 (c) The Mississippi Development Authority shall have
362 all powers necessary to implement and administer the program
363 established under this subsection (14), and the Mississippi
364 Development Authority shall promulgate rules and regulations, in
365 accordance with the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law,
366 necessary for the implementation of this subsection (14).

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 69-2-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO SECURE LETTERS
3 OF CREDIT TO GUARANTEE BID, PERFORMANCE AND PAYMENT BONDS THAT
4 MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN IN ORDER TO
5 CONTRACT WITH GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

SS02\HB1103A.J

John O. Gilbert
Secretary of the Senate