

● **DEBTOR-CREDITOR LAWS (*CROP LIENS*)**

STATUTORY CITATION: Miss. Code § 85-7-1 and §§ 85-7-31 – 85-7-53

GENERAL SUMMARY: Chapter 7, Article 1 of the state statutes regulating the debtor-creditor relationship includes provisions granting farm laborers a lien on the crops in which they are employed for recoupment of unpaid wages.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Every farmworker who cultivates, harvests or prepares for sale or market any crop in the state may assert a lien on the crop in order to collect unpaid wages from the farm owner or operator for whom such services were performed. The worker may enforce the lien by filing an affidavit before a clerk or justice in the county where the farm or crop is located. On receipt of a valid affidavit, the county official is required to issue a writ authorizing seizure of the crop and summoning the farm owner or operator to court to answer the complaint.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*

PRIVATE CIVIL ACTION — As outlined above, crop liens are enforceable only through the civil courts. A worker who wishes to assert his or her right to such a lien should consult with a private attorney or public legal service provider.