By: Representatives Middleton, Bozeman, West To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING 1 2 3 THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW TWO-LANE HIGHWAY FROM U.S. HIGHWAY 4 61 NORTH OF PORT GIBSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO GRAND GULF ROAD ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE GRAND GULF NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN CLAIBORNE 5 COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI; TO AMEND SECTION 27-35-309, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE'S SHARE OF NUCLEAR GENERATING б 7 PLANT PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF AD VALOREM TAXES SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO 8 9 THE GRAND GULF ACCESS ROAD BOND SINKING FUND TO BE UTILIZED TO PAY 10 THE DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ACT; AND FOR 11 RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 12 SECTION 1. As used in Sections 1 through 18 of this act, the 13 following words shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the 14 context clearly requires otherwise: 15

16 (a) "Accreted value" of any bond means, as of any date 17 of computation, an amount equal to the sum of (i) the stated initial value of such bond, plus (ii) the interest accrued thereon 18 19 from the issue date to the date of computation at the rate, compounded semiannually, that is necessary to produce the 20 approximate yield to maturity shown for bonds of the same 21 22 maturity. 23

24

"State" means the State of Mississippi. (b)

"Commission" means the State Bond Commission.

SECTION 2. A special fund, to be designated the "Grand Gulf 25 Access Road Construction Fund, " is created within the State 26 Treasury. The fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer as 27 a separate and special fund, separate and apart from the General 28 Fund of the state, and investment earnings on amounts in the fund 29 shall be deposited into such fund. The expenditure of monies 30

(C)

31 deposited into the fund shall be under the direction of the 32 Mississippi Transportation Commission, and such funds shall be paid by the State Treasurer upon warrants issued by the Department 33 of Finance and Administration. Monies deposited into such fund 34 35 shall be disbursed to pay the cost of constructing a new two-lane 36 highway from U.S. Highway 61 north of Port Gibson, Mississippi, 37 running in a northwesterly direction approximately 5.2 miles to 38 intersect with Grand Gulf Road on the northern side of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station in Claiborne County, Mississippi. 39

SECTION 3. For the purpose of providing for the payment of 40 the principal of and interest upon bonds issued under the 41 provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act, there is hereby 42 43 created the "Grand Gulf Access Road Bond Sinking Fund." Such sinking fund shall consist of the money required to be deposited 44 into such fund pursuant to Section 27-35-309 and such other amount 45 as shall be paid into such fund by appropriation or other 46 authorization by the Legislature. Funds required in excess of the 47 amounts available in the Grand Gulf Access Road Bond Sinking Fund 48 to pay the principal of and interest upon bonds issued under the 49 50 provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall be appropriated from the State General Fund. 51

52 SECTION 4. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission, at one time or from time to time, may declare by resolution the 53 necessity for issuance of general obligation bonds of the State of 54 55 Mississippi to provide funds for all costs incurred or to be incurred for the purposes described in Section 2 of this act. 56 57 Upon the adoption of a resolution by the Mississippi Transportation Commission declaring the necessity for the issuance 58 59 of any part or all of the general obligation bonds authorized by 60 this section, the Mississippi Transportation Commission shall deliver a certified copy of its resolution or resolutions to the 61 commission. Upon receipt of such resolution, the commission, in 62 63 its discretion, may act as the issuing agent, prescribe the form of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids, issue and sell the 64 65 bonds so authorized to be sold, and do any and all other things 66 necessary and advisable in connection with the issuance and sale of such bonds. The amount of bonds issued under Sections 1 67

68 through 18 of this act shall not exceed Ten Million Dollars 69 (\$10,000,000.00).

70 (2) Any investment earnings on amounts deposited into the 71 Grand Gulf Access Road Construction Fund created in Section 2 of 72 this act shall be used to pay debt service on bonds issued under 73 Sections 1 through 18 of this act, in accordance with the 74 proceedings authorizing issuance of such bonds.

(3) Upon the completion or abandonment of the project 75 76 described in Section 2 of this act, as evidenced by a resolution 77 adopted by the Mississippi Transportation Commission certifying 78 that such project has been completed or abandoned, the balance, if 79 any, remaining in the Grand Gulf Access Road Construction Fund 80 shall be promptly applied to pay debt service on bonds issued under Sections 1 through 18 of this act, in accordance with the 81 proceedings authorizing the issuance of such bonds. 82

83 SECTION 5. The principal of and interest on the bonds 84 authorized under Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall be payable in the manner provided in this section. Such bonds shall 85 86 bear such date or dates, be in such denomination or denominations, 87 bear interest at such rate or rates (not to exceed the limits set 88 forth in Section 75-17-101), be payable at such place or places within or without the State of Mississippi, shall mature 89 90 absolutely at such time or times not to exceed twenty-five (25) years from date of issue, be redeemable before maturity at such 91 time or times and upon such terms, with or without premium, shall 92 93 bear such registration privileges, and shall be substantially in 94 such form, all as shall be determined by resolution of the 95 commission.

96 SECTION 6. The bonds authorized by Sections 1 through 18 of 97 this act shall be signed by the Chairman of the State Bond 98 Commission, or by his facsimile signature, and the official seal 99 of the commission shall be affixed thereto, attested by the 100 secretary of the commission. The interest coupons, if any, to be

101 attached to such bonds may be executed by the facsimile signatures of such officers. Whenever any such bonds shall have been signed 102 103 by the officials designated to sign the bonds who were in office at the time of such signing but who may have ceased to be such 104 105 officers before the sale and delivery of such bonds, or who may not have been in office on the date such bonds may bear, the 106 107 signatures of such officers upon such bonds and coupons shall nevertheless be valid and sufficient for all purposes and have the 108 109 same effect as if the person so officially signing such bonds had 110 remained in office until their delivery to the purchaser, or had 111 been in office on the date such bonds may bear. However, 112 notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, such bonds may be 113 issued as provided in the Registered Bond Act of the State of 114 Mississippi.

SECTION 7. All bonds and interest coupons issued under the 115 116 provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act have all the 117 qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the provisions of the Mississippi Uniform Commercial Code, and in 118 119 exercising the powers granted by Sections 1 through 18 of this 120 act, the commission shall not be required to and need not comply 121 with the provisions of the Mississippi Uniform Commercial Code. SECTION 8. The commission shall act as the issuing agent for 122 123 the bonds authorized under Sections 1 through 18 of this act, 124 prescribe the form of the bonds, advertise for and accept bids, issue and sell the bonds so authorized to be sold, pay all fees 125 126 and costs incurred in such issuance and sale, and do any and all 127 other things necessary and advisable in connection with the issuance and sale of such bonds. The commission is authorized and 128 empowered to pay the costs that are incident to the sale, issuance 129 130 and delivery of the bonds authorized under Sections 1 through 18 131 of this act from the proceeds derived from the sale of such bonds. The commission shall sell such bonds on sealed bids at public 132 133 sale, and for such price as it may determine to be for the best

134 interest of the state, but no such sale shall be made at a price 135 less than par plus accrued interest to the date of delivery of the 136 bonds to the purchaser. All interest accruing on such bonds so 137 issued shall be payable semiannually or annually; however, the 138 first interest payment may be for any period of not more than one 139 (1) year.

Notice of the sale of any such bonds shall be published at least one (1) time, not less than ten (10) days before the date of sale, and shall be so published in one or more newspapers published or having a general circulation in the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and in one or more other newspapers or financial journals with a national circulation, to be selected by the commission.

The commission, when issuing any bonds under the authority of Sections 1 through 18 of this act, may provide that bonds, at the option of the state, may be called in for payment and redemption at the call price named therein and accrued interest on such date or dates named therein.

152 SECTION 9. The bonds issued under the provision of Sections 153 1 through 18 of this act shall be payable from the Grand Gulf 154 Access Road Bond Sinking Fund and are general obligations of the 155 State of Mississippi, and for the payment thereof the full faith 156 and credit of the State of Mississippi is irrevocably pledged. Ιf 157 the funds available in the Grand Gulf Access Road Bond Sinking Fund and any funds appropriated by the Legislature for such 158 159 purpose are insufficient to pay the principal of and the interest upon such bonds as they become due, the deficiency shall be paid 160 161 by the State Treasurer from any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated. All such bonds shall contain recitals on 162 163 their faces substantially covering the foregoing provisions of 164 this section.

165 SECTION 10. Upon the issuance and sale of bonds under the 166 provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act, the commission

167 shall transfer the proceeds of any such sale or sales to the Grand 168 Gulf Access Road Construction Fund created in Section 2 of this 169 act. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed solely upon 170 the order of the Mississippi Transportation Commission under such 171 restrictions, if any, as may be contained in the resolution 172 providing for the issuance of the bonds.

SECTION 11. The bonds authorized under Sections 1 through 18 173 174 of this act may be issued without any other proceedings or the 175 happening of any other conditions or things other than those 176 proceedings, conditions and things which are specified or required by Sections 1 through 18 of this act. Any resolution providing 177 178 for the issuance of bonds under the provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall become effective immediately upon its 179 adoption by the commission, and any such resolution may be adopted 180 at any regular or special meeting of the commission by a majority 181 182 of its members.

183 SECTION 12. The bonds authorized under the authority of Sections 1 through 18 of this act may be validated in the Chancery 184 185 Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, in the manner and with the force and effect provided by Chapter 186 187 13, Title 31, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the validation of county, municipal, school district and other bonds. The notice to 188 189 taxpayers required by such statutes shall be published in a 190 newspaper published or having a general circulation in the City of 191 Jackson, Mississippi.

192 SECTION 13. Any holder of bonds issued under the provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act or of any of the interest 193 194 coupons pertaining thereto may, either at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other proceeding, protect and enforce 195 any and all rights granted under Sections 1 through 18 of this 196 197 act, or under such resolution, and may enforce and compel performance of all duties required by Sections 1 through 18 of 198 199 this act to be performed, in order to provide for the payment of

200 bonds and interest thereon.

SECTION 14. All bonds issued under the provisions of 201 202 Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall be legal investments for trustees and other fiduciaries, and for savings banks, trust 203 204 companies and insurance companies organized under the laws of the 205 State of Mississippi, and such bonds shall be legal securities which may be deposited with and shall be received by all public 206 207 officers and bodies of this state and all municipalities and 208 political subdivisions for the purpose of securing the deposit of 209 public funds.

210 SECTION 15. Bonds issued under the provisions of Sections 1 211 through 18 of this act and income therefrom shall be exempt from 212 all taxation in the State of Mississippi.

213 SECTION 16. The proceeds of the bonds issued under Sections 214 1 through 18 this act shall be used solely for the purposes herein 215 provided, including the costs incident to the issuance and sale of 216 such bonds.

SECTION 17. The State Treasurer is authorized, without 217 218 further process of law, to certify to the Department of Finance 219 and Administration the necessity for warrants, and the Department 220 of Finance and Administration is authorized and directed to issue 221 such warrants, in such amounts as may be necessary to pay when due 222 the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on, or the 223 accreted value of, all bonds issued under Sections 1 through 18 of this act; and the State Treasurer shall forward the necessary 224 225 amount to the designated place or places of payment of such bonds 226 in ample time to discharge such bonds, or the interest thereon, on 227 the due dates thereof.

SECTION 18. The provisions of Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall be deemed to be full and complete authority for the exercise of the powers therein granted, but Sections 1 through 18 of this act shall not be deemed to repeal or to be in derogation of any existing law of this state.

233 SECTION 19. Section 27-35-309, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 234 amended as follows:

235 27-35-309. (1) The State Tax Commission shall, if practicable, on or before the first Monday of June of each year, 236 237 make out for each person, firm, company or corporation listed in Section 27-35-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, an assessment of said 238 239 company's property, both real and personal, tangible and 240 intangible. The State Tax Commission shall apportion the 241 assessment of value of each company's property according to the 242 provisions of this article, except as provided in subsection (3) 243 of this section, as follows:

244 (a) When the property of such public service company is located in more than one (1) county in this state, the State Tax 245 246 Commission shall direct the company to apportion the assessed 247 value between the counties and municipalities and all other taxing 248 districts therein, in the proportion which the property located 249 therein bears to the entire value of the property of such company as valued by the commission, so that to each county, municipality 250 251 and taxing district therein, there shall be apportioned such part 252 of the entire valuation as will fairly equalize the relative value 253 of the property therein located to the whole value thereof.

(b) When the property of such public utility required to be assessed by the provisions of this article is located in more than one (1) state, the assessed value thereof shall be apportioned by the State Tax Commission in such manner as will fairly and equitably determine the principal sum for the value thereof in this state, and after ascertaining such value it shall be apportioned by them as herein provided.

The assessment roll shall contain all the property of any such public service company, railroad, person, firm or corporation and the value thereof, and so made that each county, municipality, and taxing district shall receive its just share of taxes proportionately to the amount of property therein situated.

(2) 266 (a) The assessment when made shall remain open for one (1) month in the Office of the State Tax Commission, and be for 267 268 such time subject to the objections thereto which may be filed; but real estate belonging to railroads and which forms no part of 269 270 the road, and is wholly disconnected from its railroad business, shall not be assessed by the State Tax Commission, but shall be 271 272 assessed as other real estate is assessed by the tax assessor of 273 the county where situated.

(b) The apportionment of the assessed value as required 274 275 by this section shall be filed with the State Tax Commission by such public service company on or before the first day of August 276 277 in each year. If such company shall fail, refuse or neglect to render the apportionment of assessed value as required by this 278 279 section, such company shall be subject to the penalties provided 280 for in Section 27-35-305. The filing of an objection by such 281 public service company shall not preclude such company from filing 282 the property apportionment as required by this section.

(3) Any nuclear generating plant which is located in the 283 284 state, which is owned or operated by a public utility rendering electric service within the state and not exempt from ad valorem 285 286 taxation under any other statute and which is not owned or 287 operated by an instrumentality of the federal government shall be 288 exempt from county, municipal and district ad valorem taxes. In 289 lieu of the payment of county, municipal and district ad valorem 290 taxes, such public utility shall pay to the State Tax Commission a 291 sum based on the assessed value of such nuclear generating plant 292 in an amount to be determined and distributed as follows:

(a) The State Tax Commission shall annually assign an
assessed value to any nuclear generating plant described in this
subsection in the same manner as for ad valorem tax purposes by
using accepted industry methods for appraising and assessing
public utility property. The assessed value assigned shall be
used for the purpose of determining the in-lieu tax due under this

299 section and shall not be included on the ad valorem tax rolls of 300 the situs taxing authority nor be subject to ad valorem taxation 301 by the situs taxing authority nor shall the assessed value 302 assigned be used in determining the debt limit of the situs taxing 303 authority. However, the assessed value so assigned may be used by 304 the situs taxing authority for the purpose of determining salaries 305 of its public officials.

(b) On or before February 1, 1987, for the 1986 taxable 306 307 year and on or before February 1 of each year through the 1989 308 taxable year, such utility shall pay to the State Tax Commission a sum equal to two percent (2%) of the assessed value as ascertained 309 310 by the State Tax Commission, but such payment shall not be less than Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000.00) for any of the four 311 (4) taxable years; all such payments in excess of Sixteen Million 312 Dollars (\$16,000,000.00) for these four (4) taxable years shall be 313 314 paid into the General Fund of the state. On or before February 1, 315 1991, for the 1990 taxable year and on or before February 1 of each year thereafter, such utility shall pay to the State Tax 316 317 Commission a sum equal to two percent (2%) of the assessed value as ascertained by the State Tax Commission, but such payment shall 318 319 not be less than Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000.00) for any taxable year for as long as such nuclear power plant is licensed 320 321 to operate and is not being permanently decommissioned; all such 322 payments in excess of Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000.00) for taxable years 1990 and thereafter shall be paid as follows: 323 324 (i) An amount of Three Million Forty Thousand Dollars (\$3,040,000.00) annually, beginning with fiscal year 1991, 325

326 shall be transferred by the State Tax Commission to Claiborne 327 County. Such payments may be expended by the Board of Supervisors 328 of Claiborne County for any purpose for which a county is 329 authorized by law to levy an ad valorem tax and shall not be 330 included or considered as proceeds of ad valorem taxes for the 331 purposes of the growth limitation on ad valorem taxes under

332 Sections 27-39-305 and 27-39-321. Provided, however, should the 333 Board of Supervisors of Claiborne County withdraw its support of 334 the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station off-site emergency plan or otherwise fail to satisfy its off-site emergency plan commitments 335 336 as determined by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and 337 the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) annually of the funds designated for 338 Claiborne County as described by this subsection (i) shall be 339 340 deposited in the Grand Gulf Disaster Assistance Fund as provided 341 in Section 33-15-51.

(ii) An amount of One Hundred Sixty Thousand 342 343 Dollars (\$160,000.00) annually, beginning with fiscal year 1991, shall be transferred by the State Tax Commission to the City of 344 Port Gibson, Mississippi. Such payments may be expended by the 345 346 Board of Aldermen of the City of Port Gibson for any purpose for 347 which a municipality is authorized by law to levy an ad valorem 348 tax and shall not be included or considered as proceeds of ad 349 valorem taxes for the purposes of the growth limitation on ad 350 valorem taxes under Sections 27-39-305 and 27-39-321. Provided, however, should the Board of Aldermen of the City of Port Gibson 351 352 withdraw its support of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station off-site emergency plan or otherwise fail to satisfy its off-site emergency 353 354 plan commitment, as determined by the Mississippi Emergency 355 Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) annually of the funds 356 357 designated for the City of Port Gibson as described by this subsection (ii) shall be deposited in the Grand Gulf Disaster 358 359 Assistance Fund as provided in Section 33-15-51.

(iii) The remaining balance of the payments in
excess of Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000.00) annually, less
amounts transferred under (i) and (ii) of this subsection,
beginning with fiscal year 1991, shall be allocated in accordance
with subsection (3)(f) of this section.

365 (C) Pursuant to certification by the Attorney General to the State Treasurer and the State Tax Commission that the suit 366 367 against the State of Mississippi pending on June 26, 1990, in the Chancery Court for the First Judicial District of Hinds County, 368 369 Mississippi, styled Albert Butler et al v. the Mississippi State 370 Tax Commission et al, has been voluntarily dismissed with prejudice as to all plaintiffs at the request of the complainants 371 and that no attorney's fees or court costs have been assessed 372 373 against the state and each of the parties, including Claiborne 374 County and each municipality and school district located in the county, have signed and delivered to the Attorney General a full 375 376 and complete release in favor of the State of Mississippi and its elected officials of all claims that have been asserted or may be 377 asserted in the suit pending on June 26, 1990, in the Chancery 378 Court for the First Judicial District of Hinds County, 379 380 Mississippi, styled Albert Butler et al v. the Mississippi State 381 Tax Commission et al, and the deposit into the State General Fund 382 of in-lieu payments and interest thereon due the state under 383 subsection (3)(b) of this section but placed in escrow because of 384 the lawsuit described above, the state shall promptly transfer to 385 the Board of Supervisors of Claiborne County out of the State 386 General Fund an amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) 387 which shall be a one-time distribution to Claiborne County from 388 the state. Such payment may be expended by the Board of Supervisors of Claiborne County for any purposes for which a 389 390 county is authorized by law to levy an ad valorem tax and shall 391 not be included or considered as proceeds of ad valorem taxes for 392 the purposes of the growth limitation on ad valorem taxes for the 1991 fiscal year under Sections 27-39-321 and 27-39-305. 393

394 (d) After distribution of the one-time payment to
395 Claiborne County as set forth in subsection (3)(c) of this
396 section, the State Tax Commission upon certification that the
397 pending lawsuit as described in subsection (3)(c) of this section

398 has been voluntarily dismissed shall promptly deposit an amount of 399 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) into the Grand Gulf 400 Disaster Assistance Trust Fund as provided for in Section 401 33-15-51, which shall be a one-time payment, to be utilized in 402 accordance with the provisions of such section.

403 After distribution of the one-time payment to (e) 404 Claiborne County as set forth in subsection (3)(c) of this section and the payment to the Grand Gulf Disaster Assistance Trust Fund 405 406 as set forth in subsection (3)(d) of this section, the State Tax 407 Commission upon certification that the pending lawsuit as described in subsection (3)(c) of this section has been 408 409 voluntarily dismissed shall promptly distribute ten percent (10%) 410 of the remainder of the prior payments remaining in escrow to the General Fund of the state and the balance of the prior payments 411 412 remaining in escrow shall be distributed to the counties and 413 municipalities in this state wherein such public utility has 414 rendered electric service in the proportion that the amount of electric energy consumed by the retail customers of such public 415 416 utility in each county, excluding municipalities therein, and in 417 each municipality, for the next preceding fiscal year bears to the 418 total amount of electric energy consumed by all retail customers of such public utility in the State of Mississippi for the next 419 420 preceding fiscal year. The payments distributed to the counties 421 and municipalities under this paragraph (e) may be expended by 422 such counties and municipalities for any lawful purpose and shall 423 not be included or considered as proceeds of ad valorem taxes for 424 the purposes of the growth limitation on ad valorem taxes under Sections 27-39-321 and 27-39-305. 425

426 (f) After distribution of the payments for fiscal year
427 1991 as set forth in Section 19-9-151 and distribution of the
428 payments as provided for in subsection (3)(b) of this section:
429 (i) The State Tax Commission shall distribute Ten
430 percent (10%) of the remainder of the payments to the <u>Grand Gulf</u>

431 Access Road Bond Sinking Fund created under Section 3, House Bill , 1999 Regular Session, until such time as such fund 432 No. 433 contains the amount necessary to pay all the principal of and interest upon any bonds issued pursuant to House Bill No. 434 435 1999 Regular Session, when such principal and interest becomes 436 due; thereafter, the State Tax Commission shall distribute ten percent (10%) of the remainder of the payments to the General Fund 437 438 of the state; and (ii) The State Tax Commission shall distribute the 439 440 balance <u>remaining after the distribution required under item (i)</u> 441 of this paragraph (f) to the counties and municipalities in this 442 state wherein such public utility renders electric service in the proportion that the amount of electric energy consumed by the 443 444 retail customers of such public utility in each county, excluding 445 municipalities therein, and in each municipality for the next 446 preceding fiscal year bears to the total amount of electric energy 447 consumed by all retail customers of such public utility in the State of Mississippi for the next preceding fiscal year. 448 449 (g) No county, including municipalities therein, shall 450 receive in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the funds distributed 451 under paragraph (f) of this subsection. 452 The revenues received by counties and (h) 453 municipalities under paragraph (f) of this subsection shall not be 454 included or considered as proceeds of ad valorem taxes for the purposes of the growth limitation on ad valorem taxes under 455 Sections 27-39-305 and 27-39-321. 456 SECTION 20. This act shall take effect and be in force from 457

458 and after July 1, 1999.