

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Public Property

SENATE BILL NO. 2153  
(As Passed the Senate)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE METRO RECREATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY; TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONSIST OF THE  
3 MAYORS OF THE CITIES OF PEARL, FLOWOOD, RICHLAND AND JACKSON, OR  
4 THEIR DESIGNEES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE AUTHORITY SHALL STUDY THE  
5 PORTIONS OF THE PEARL RIVER LEVEE SYSTEM LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY  
6 LIMITS OF PEARL, FLOWOOD, RICHLAND AND JACKSON TO DETERMINE THE  
7 FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF UTILIZING THE EXISTING LEVEE  
8 SYSTEM AS A LOCATION FOR A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC ROADS AND DEVELOPING  
9 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS BETWEEN THE  
10 LEVEES LOCATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL LIMITS OF SUCH MUNICIPALITIES;  
11 TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE AUTHORITY DETERMINES THAT EITHER OF SUCH  
12 USES ARE FEASIBLE AND DESIRABLE IT SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO  
13 IMPLEMENT SUCH USES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY  
14 THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:  
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16 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby created the Metro  
17 Recreational Highway Authority (Authority). The membership of the  
18 Authority shall consist of the mayors of the Cities of Pearl,  
19 Flowood, Richland and Jackson, or their designee. The first  
20 meeting of the Authority shall be held by the Authority within  
21 sixty (60) days after the passage of this act at a time and place  
22 agreed upon by the members of the Authority. At such meeting the  
23 Authority shall select from among its membership a chairman and  
24 such other officers as it considers necessary to conduct its  
25 business. Any final action of the Authority shall require an  
26 affirmative vote of a majority of its membership.

27 (2) The Authority shall study the Pearl River levee system  
28 located within the municipal limits of the Cities of Pearl,  
29 Flowood, Richland and Jackson and the publicly owned land between  
30 such levees to determine the feasibility and desirability of:

31 (a) Utilizing the existing levee system as a location  
32 for a system of public roads; and

33           (b) Developing recreational opportunities on publicly  
34 owned lands between the levees that are located within the  
35 municipal limits of such municipalities.

36           (3) If the Authority determines that either of such uses are  
37 feasible and desirable it shall develop a plan to implement such  
38 uses.

39           (4) The Authority is authorized to call upon any and all  
40 agencies of the State of Mississippi, or any political subdivision  
41 thereof, to furnish such information, data and assistance as will  
42 enable it to carry out its duties under the provisions of this  
43 section and all agencies of the State of Mississippi and its  
44 political subdivisions are hereby directed to cooperate with the  
45 Authority and render such information, data aid and assistance as  
46 may be requested by the Authority.

47           (5) The Authority shall have the power to enlist the  
48 services of any agency, either public or private, or any  
49 individual or educational institution, research organization,  
50 foundation, or educational or civic organization for assistance in  
51 accomplishing the purposes of this act, conducting research or  
52 gathering information.

53           (6) The Authority is authorized and empowered to receive and  
54 expend any funds appropriated to it by the Legislature and any  
55 funds received by from any other source in carrying out the  
56 objectives and purposes of this act.

57           (7) The Authority shall utilize employees of the Cities of  
58 Pearl, Flowood, Richland and Jackson to assist it in performing  
59 its duties.

60           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
61 and after its passage.