

By: Janus

To: Transportation; Ways
and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 1519

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 LIMIT THE GAMING COUNTIES STATE-ASSISTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TO
3 PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN GAMING COUNTIES; TO AMEND SECTION 65-39-3,
4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO RESTRICT THE EXPENDITURE OF MONIES IN
5 THE GAMING COUNTIES BOND SINKING FUND TO THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST
6 ON AND PRINCIPAL OF BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
7 PROVIDING FUNDS FOR GAMING COUNTIES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS; AND
8 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 65-39-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 65-39-1. (1) The Mississippi Transportation Commission is
13 authorized, subject to the availability of funds in the Gaming
14 Counties State-Assisted Infrastructure Fund created in Section
15 65-39-17, to conduct feasibility studies and, pursuant to
16 information gathered in such studies, select routes and locations,
17 perform preliminary engineering, acquire necessary right-of-way
18 and property, construct and/or reconstruct and improve existing or
19 new highways, roads, streets and bridges, including two-lane,
20 four-lane and multi-lane roads (or segments thereof), perform
21 intersection improvements, provide signal retiming, turnbay
22 extensions, additional interchanges and other traffic
23 modifications, within * * * those counties in this state where
24 legal gaming is being conducted or is authorized. Any highway,
25 road, street or bridge that is authorized to be constructed,
26 reconstructed or improved shall meet design standards established
27 by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, shall be
28 constructed to bear a load limit of at least eighty thousand
29 (80,000) pounds and, upon completion, shall become a part of the

30 state highway system, and thereafter shall be under the
31 jurisdiction of the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
32 Mississippi Department of Transportation for construction and
33 maintenance.

34 (2) The projects authorized in subsection (1) of this
35 section shall include, but shall not be limited to, highways,
36 roads, streets and bridges on and along the following locations:

37 (a) U.S. Highway 90 from its intersection with
38 Mississippi 607 in Hancock County to Ocean Springs, and including
39 Lakeshore Road in Hancock County from its intersection with U.S.
40 Highway 90 to Beach Boulevard;

41 (b) Mississippi 4 from U.S. Highway 61 to Mississippi
42 3;

43 (c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

44 (d) Lorraine_Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

45 (e) U.S. Highway 49 from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10 in
46 Gulfport;

47 (f) Mississippi 304 beginning at the Tennessee State
48 Line at or near U.S. 72 and thence running in a southwesterly
49 direction to intersect with U.S. 78 at or near Byhalia and thence
50 running in a westerly direction to intersect I-55 at or near
51 Hernando and thence running in a westerly direction to intersect
52 with U.S. 61 in DeSoto County, with a spur extending southwesterly
53 to or near Robinsonville in Tunica County;

54 (g) I-10 from Exit 28 to Exit 57;

55 (h) A new location from the northernmost point on I-110
56 to U.S. 49;

57 (i) U.S. Highway 61 from the Tunica County line to the
58 Tennessee state line;

59 (j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
60 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending
61 easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of
62 Carthage within the corporate boundaries;

63 (ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed,
64 along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of
65 Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing
66 four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba county

67 line; and

68 (iii) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16
69 beginning at the Leake/Neshoba county line and extending easterly
70 to not more than ten (10) miles east of Mississippi 15;

71 (k) Lorraine_Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to
72 relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

73 (l) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 82
74 and Mississippi 1 in the City of Greenville;

75 (m) At various locations on and along I-20, U.S.
76 Highway 61 and U.S. Highway 80 in the City of Vicksburg, including
77 a truck route from Harbor Industrial Park to U.S. Highway 61 north
78 and an extension of South Frontage Road with railroad bridge to
79 Interstate Highway 20;

80 (n) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 61,
81 U.S. Highway 65 and Washington Street in the City of Natchez;

82 (o) At various locations on and along U.S. Highway 90
83 in the City of Pass Christian;

84 (p) Mississippi 43/603 beginning where the existing
85 four-lane ends north of I-10 and extending northerly to a point
86 approximately one (1) mile north of Kiln where Mississippi 43/603
87 divides into Mississippi 43 and Mississippi 603;

88 (q) Mississippi 43 beginning where Mississippi 43 and
89 Mississippi 603 divide and extending northwesterly to or near
90 Picayune;

91 (r) U.S. 49 from U.S. 61 west to the Mississippi River
92 bridge;

93 (s) Subject to the conditions prescribed in subsection
94 (3) of this section, a central Harrison County connector from I-10
95 to U.S. 90 in the vicinity of Canal Road to the Mississippi State
96 Port at Gulfport; and

97 (t) An east Harrison County connector from U.S. 90 to
98 I-10 to be located between the Cowan-Lorraine Road interchange and
99 the I-110 interchange.

100 (3) Authorization for the project described in paragraph
101 (2)(s) of this section is conditioned upon receipt by the
102 Mississippi Transportation Commission of a written commitment by
103 the Department of Economic and Community Development to make
104 available for such project not less than Six Million Dollars
105 (\$6,000,000.00).

106 (4) All planning, construction, reconstruction and
107 performance of the projects authorized under this section,
108 including the letting of contracts, shall commence, proceed and be
109 performed by the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the
110 Mississippi Department of Transportation according to priorities
111 based on volume capacity and traffic congestion in comparative
112 project areas; however, if a project authorized in this section is
113 also included in the four-lane highway program under Section
114 65-3-97, then all contracts necessary to be let for the completion
115 of the project under this section shall be let not later than the
116 priorities established for the letting of contracts for the
117 project under Section 65-3-97.

118 (5) (a) Funds for the projects authorized under this
119 section may be provided through the issuance of bonds under
120 Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33, through the issuance of notes
121 for such purposes under Section 31-17-127 or from such monies as
122 may be available in the Gaming Counties State-Assisted
123 Infrastructure Fund created under Section 65-39-17.

124 (b) In addition to the funds provided for under
125 paragraph (a) of this subsection, funds for the project described
126 in subsection (2)(s) of this section also may be provided from any
127 available federal, state, county or municipal funds authorized for
128 such project, including the Economic Development Highway Act.

129 SECTION 2. Section 65-39-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
130 amended as follows:

131 65-39-3. There is created in the State Treasury a special
132 fund to be designated as the "Gaming Counties Bond Sinking Fund."

133 Such monies as the Legislature directs or provides to be
134 deposited into the fund may be expended, upon legislative
135 appropriation, only to pay the interest on and principal of bonds
136 issued pursuant to Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33 or to pay the
137 interest on and principal of notes issued under Section 31-17-127
138 for the purpose of providing funds for infrastructure projects
139 under Section 65-39-1 * * *. Unexpended amounts remaining in the
140 sinking fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into
141 the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the
142 sinking fund shall be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund.

143 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
144 and after July 1, 2000.