

**\*\*\*Adopted\*\*\***

**AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill NO. 1506**

**By Senator(s) Minor, Robertson**

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

10

11        SECTION 1. Section 1, Chapter 309, Laws of 1966, as amended  
12 by Chapter 496, Laws of 1982, is amended as follows:

13        Section 1. The Northeast Mississippi Gas District is hereby  
14 created, said district being composed of the following described  
15 areas:

16            (a) All that part of Itawamba County, Mississippi,  
17 lying west of the Tombigbee River;

18            (b) That portion of Lee County lying within one-half  
19 (1/2) mile on either side of the center line of State Highway 363,  
20 extending a distance of five (5) miles west from the county line  
21 dividing Itawamba and Lee Counties;

22            (c) That portion of Lee County lying within one-half  
23 (1/2) mile on either side of the center line of U.S. Highway 78,  
24 extending a distance of five (5) miles west from the county line  
25 dividing Itawamba and Lee Counties, and the unincorporated  
26 community of Mooreville in Lee County; and

27            (d) That portion of Lee County lying within one-half  
28 (1/2) mile on either side of the center line of State Highway 371  
29 (being the highway from Mantachie to Mooreville), extending a  
30 distance of five (5) miles southwest from the county line dividing

31 Itawamba and Lee Counties.

32 SECTION 2. Section 2, Chapter 309, Laws of 1966, as amended  
33 by Chapter 496, Laws of 1982, is amended as follows:

34 Section 2. The said Northeast Mississippi Gas District shall  
35 be and is hereby declared to be a valid political subdivision of  
36 the State of Mississippi, with the power to sue and be sued and to  
37 contract and be contracted with.

38 SECTION 3. Section 4, Chapter 309, Laws of 1966, as amended  
39 by Chapter 496, Laws of 1982, is amended as follows:

40 Section 4. From and after the effective date of this act,  
41 the powers of the Northeast Mississippi Gas District shall be  
42 vested in and exercised by a board of commissioners consisting of  
43 three (3) residents of the district. The Governor shall appoint  
44 an interim board, the term of which shall expire upon completion  
45 of the construction of the district's natural gas transmission and  
46 distribution system and the election of a successor board as  
47 hereinafter provided.

48 Promptly upon the commencement of natural gas service by the  
49 district to not less than ten (10) individually billed users, the  
50 commissioners shall give notice to each user of an initial  
51 election to be held at a time not less than thirty (30) days nor  
52 more than sixty (60) days from such date. The notice shall state  
53 the time, place, and manner in which the users may vote upon the  
54 selection of the board to terms of one (1), two (2) and three (3)  
55 years by ballot of all users of the district. Such election shall  
56 be held in a manner and according to procedures to be established  
57 by rules and regulations adopted by the board prior to the giving  
58 of notice of such election, and a printed copy of such rules and  
59 regulations shall accompany the notice to be forwarded by regular  
60 mail to the users.

61 Rules and regulations for the conduct of the election shall  
62 provide for a method of nomination of commissioners, notice of  
63 such nominations to be provided to users not less than ten (10)  
64 days prior to the date upon which the election is to be held,  
65 along with a method of balloting by mail as well as personal

66attendance at the time and place of election, a method of  
67balloting by proxy vote, and a method of making additional  
68nominations by users in addition to any nominations proposed by  
69the board of commissioners. The time of the election shall be  
70fixed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on a day of  
71the week other than Sunday.

72 In this and all succeeding elections, each user of the  
73district shall have one (1) vote; provided that when a billing is  
74made to more than one (1) person at a single location, each such  
75person shall be limited to casting a pro rata share of the one (1)  
76vote to which the billing location is entitled.

77 Subsequent to the initial election, there shall be held an  
78election annually on a date and in a manner substantially  
79conforming to the initial election, except that in each annual  
80election following the initial election, commissioners shall be  
81elected to terms of three (3) years.

82 Vacancies in the office of commissioner during the interim  
83period shall be filled by appointment of the Governor and,  
84following the holding of the initial election, shall be filled for  
85the unexpired term by the remaining commissioners.

86 SECTION 4. Section 5, Chapter 309, Laws of 1966, as amended  
87by Chapter 496, Laws of 1982, is amended as follows:

88 Section 5. The board shall have the power to make such rules  
89and regulations as it deems necessary to the operation of the  
90district and the subsequent election of commissioners and shall  
91possess, and is hereby granted all necessary power and authority  
92to construct, acquire, improve, repair and extend a natural gas  
93transmission and distribution system and to issue revenue bonds  
94for such purposes. The amount of revenue bonds authorized to be  
95issued shall not exceed an aggregate of Six Million Dollars  
96(\$6,000,000.00). Except as herein provided, all powers with  
97respect to natural gas transmission and distribution systems  
98granted to municipalities of this state by Sections 21-27-11  
99through 21-27-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, are hereby conferred  
100upon and may be exercised within the district by the board as if

101the system and financing thereof as provided herein were pursuant  
102to said sections.

103 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
104and after June 30, 2000. This act shall stand repealed from and  
105after July 1, 2000.