To: Transportation; Ways and Means

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2001

By: Representative Janus

HOUSE BILL NO. 485

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) Mississippi 4 from Mississippi 3 to Senatobia;

(d) Lorraine-Cowan Road from U.S. Highway 90 to I-10;

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

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

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

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

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

(j) (i) Four-lanes for traffic along Mississippi 16 beginning at its intersection with Mississippi 25 and extending easterly to join the existing four-lane on the west side of Carthage within the corporate boundaries;
(ii) Passing lanes and turn lanes, as needed, along Mississippi 16 beginning at a point on the east side of Carthage within the corporate boundaries where the existing four-lane ends and extending easterly to the Leake/Neshoba county line; and

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

(k) Lorraine-Cowan Road Extension from I-10 North to relocated/reconstructed Mississippi 67;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

65-39-3. There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to be designated as the "Gaming Counties Bond Sinking Fund." From and after July 1, 2001, such monies as the Legislature directs or provides to be deposited into the fund may be expended, upon legislative appropriation, only to pay the interest on and principal of bonds issued pursuant to Sections 65-39-5 through 65-39-33 or to pay the interest on and principal of notes issued under Section 31-17-127 for the purpose of providing funds for infrastructure projects under Section 65-39-1. Unexpended amounts remaining in the sinking fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the sinking fund shall be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.