

By: Representative Guice

To: Transportation

## HOUSE BILL NO. 691

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-1-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 PROVIDE THAT FROM AND AFTER JULY 1, 2004, THE MISSISSIPPI  
3 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS APPOINTED  
4 BY THE GOVERNOR, ONE FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; TO  
5 PRESCRIBE THE TERMS FOR THE INITIAL AND SUBSEQUENT MEMBERS  
6 APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION; TO PROVIDE FOR VACANCIES ON THE  
7 COMMISSION TO BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FOR THE REMAINDER OF  
8 THE UNEXPIRED TERM; TO AMEND SECTION 25-3-33, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
9 1972, TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS  
10 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2004; TO AMEND SECTIONS 25-3-31, 23-15-193,  
11 23-15-297, 23-15-881, 23-15-883, 23-15-887, 65-1-5, 65-1-7 AND  
12 65-1-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE  
13 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 SECTION 1. Section 65-1-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 65-1-3. (1) There shall be a Mississippi Transportation  
18 Commission which, until July 1, 2004, shall consist of three (3)  
19 members, one (1) from each of the three (3) Supreme Court  
20 districts of the state. Until July 1, 2004, only qualified  
21 electors who are citizens of the Supreme Court district in which  
22 he or she offers for election shall be eligible for such office.

23 \* \* \*

24 (2) The transportation commissioners who were elected for a  
25 term beginning on the first Monday of January in the year 2000,  
26 shall continue to hold office and serve for a term expiring on  
27 July 1, 2004.

28 (3) From and after July 1, 2004, the Mississippi  
29 Transportation Commission shall consist of Five (5) members  
30 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the  
31 Senate, one from each of the five congressional districts as such

32 districts existed on July 1, 2001. The initial appointments to  
33 the commission shall be as follows: One (1) member shall be  
34 appointed from the First Congressional District for a term of Five  
35 (5) years; one (1) member shall be appointed from the Second  
36 Congressional District for a term of Three (3) years; one (1)  
37 member shall be appointed from the Third Congressional District  
38 for a term of Four (4) years; one (1) member shall be appointed  
39 from the Fourth Congressional District for a term of Three (3)  
40 years; and one (1) member shall be appointed from the Fifth  
41 Congressional District for a term of Six (6) years. After  
42 expiration of the initial terms of the members of the commission,  
43 all subsequent appointments shall be made for terms of Six (6)  
44 years from the expiration date of the previous term.

45 (4) If any one or more of the transportation commissioners  
46 elected or appointed under the provisions of this chapter shall  
47 die, resign or be removed from office, the Governor shall fill the  
48 vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term \* \* \*.

49 (5) Each of the transportation commissioners, before  
50 entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall  
51 take and subscribe the oath of office required of other state  
52 officials and shall execute bond in the sum of Fifty Thousand  
53 Dollars (\$50,000.00), with some surety company authorized to do  
54 business in this state as surety, conditioned for the faithful  
55 performance of the duties of his office and for the faithful and  
56 true accounting of all funds or monies or property coming into his  
57 hands by virtue of his office, and conditioned further that all  
58 such funds, monies and property will be expended and used by him  
59 only for purposes authorized by law, said bond to be approved by  
60 the Governor or Attorney General and to be filed in the office of  
61 the Secretary of State. The premium on such bonds shall be paid  
62 out of the funds of the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

63 From and after July 1, 1992, the State Highway Commission  
64 shall be the Mississippi Transportation Commission and the members  
65 thereof shall be the Mississippi transportation commissioners.

66 SECTION 2. Section 25-3-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
67 amended as follows:

68 **[Until July 1, 2004, this section shall read as follows:]**

69 25-3-33. The annual salaries of the following appointive  
70 state and district officials and employees are fixed as follows:

71 Deputy Attorney General, not to exceed..... \$72,800.00

72 Assistant Attorneys General shall each

73 receive annual salaries in an amount

74 to be fixed by the Attorney General

75 but not to exceed..... 68,400.00

76 Military Department--National Guard:

77 Adjutant General..... 80,000.00

78 Department of Banking and Consumer Finance:

79 Commissioner..... 85,000.00

80 Chairman of the State Tax Commission

81 (Commissioner of Revenue)..... 91,000.00

82 Associate Commissioners, each..... 42,000.00

83 Director of Emergency Management Agency..... 65,000.00

84 Department of Public Safety:

85 Commissioner of Public Safety..... 80,000.00

86 Director, Office of Mississippi

87 Highway Safety Patrol, or

88 his successor..... 70,000.00

89 Director, Office of Support Services,

90 or his successor..... 70,000.00

91 Department of Human Services:

92 Director, not to exceed..... 85,000.00

93 Workers' Compensation Commission:

94 Chairman..... 80,000.00

95 Members, each..... 78,000.00

96	Executive Director.....	75,000.00
97	Administrative Judge, each.....	75,000.00
98	Archives and History:	
99	Director, not to exceed.....	70,000.00
100	State Forester.....	70,000.00
101	State Oil and Gas Board:	
102	Secretary-Supervisor.....	70,000.00
103	Educational Television Authority:	
104	Executive Director.....	70,000.00
105	Director, Mississippi Library Commission,	
106	not to exceed.....	70,000.00
107	Executive Secretary, Public Service	
108	Commission.....	65,000.00
109	Parole Board:	
110	Chairman.....	50,000.00
111	Administrative Assistant for	
112	Parole Matters.....	42,000.00
113	Members, each.....	44,000.00
114	Governor's State Bond Advisory Division:	
115	Director.....	55,000.00
116	Employment Security Commission:	
117	Executive Director, not to exceed.....	70,000.00
118	Executive Director, Department of	
119	Mental Health, to be determined by the	
120	State Board of Mental Health, not	
121	to exceed.....	85,000.00
122	Director, Division of Medicaid,	
123	not to exceed.....	85,000.00
124	Director, State Department of Transportation,	
125	not to exceed.....	85,000.00
126	State Entomologist.....	65,000.00
127	Clerk of the Supreme Court.....	60,000.00
128	State Aid Engineer, Division of State	

129	Aid Road Construction.....	70,000.00
130	Executive Director, Judicial Performance	
131	Commission.....	65,000.00
132	Executive Director, Department of Finance	
133	and Administration.....	85,000.00
134	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the	
135	Blind, to be determined by the State	
136	Board of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
137	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the Deaf,	
138	to be determined by the State Board	
139	of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
140	Executive Director, State Fair Commission.....	65,000.00
141	Executive Director, Department of Wildlife,	
142	Fisheries and Parks.....	80,000.00
143	Executive Director, Department of Environmental	
144	Quality.....	85,000.00
145	Executive Director, Pat Harrison Waterway	
146	District.....	65,000.00
147	Executive Director, Pearl River Basin	
148	Development District.....	61,000.00
149	Executive Director, Pearl River Valley Water	
150	Supply District.....	71,000.00
151	Executive Director, Tombigbee River Valley	
152	Water Management District.....	61,000.00
153	Director, Soil and Water Conservation	
154	Commission.....	60,000.00
155	Commissioner, Mississippi Department of	
156	Corrections.....	85,000.00
157	Executive Director, Mississippi Department of	
158	Information Technology Services.....	85,000.00
159	Executive Director, Mississippi Industries	
160	for the Blind.....	60,000.00
161	Director, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.....	60,000.00

162	Executive Secretary, State Veterans Affairs	
163	Board.....	55,000.00
164	Executive Officer, Veterans' Home Purchase	
165	Board.....	65,000.00
166	Chief Administrative Officer, Motor Vehicle	
167	Commission.....	55,000.00
168	Stadium Manager, Mississippi Veterans	
169	Memorial Stadium.....	55,000.00
170	Executive Director, Mississippi Arts	
171	Commission.....	55,000.00
172	Director, Mississippi Board of Nursing.....	60,000.00
173	Director, State Board of Pharmacy.....	60,000.00
174	Director, State Board of Public Contractors.....	50,000.00
175	Director, Real Estate Commission.....	55,000.00
176	Director of Support Services, Department	
177	of Rehabilitation Services.....	80,000.00
178	Executive Director, State Fire Academy.....	55,000.00
179	Executive Director, Law Enforcement	
180	Officers Training Academy.....	50,000.00
181	Executive Director, State Board of	
182	Accountancy.....	60,000.00
183	Executive Director, Mississippi	
184	Gaming Commission.....	90,000.00
185	Executive Director, Mississippi	
186	Department of Marine Resources.....	70,000.00
187	Executive Director, State Board of	
188	Registration for Professional	
189	Engineers and Land Surveyors.....	55,000.00
190	Executive Director, Public Utilities	
191	Staff.....	85,000.00
192	State Law Librarian.....	60,000.00
193	State Personnel Director.....	75,000.00
194	Manager, Farmers Central Market,	

195 Department of Agriculture and  
 196 Commerce..... 40,000.00  
 197 State Veterinarian..... 70,000.00  
 198 Executive Director, Mississippi Ethics  
 199 Commission.....70,000.00

200 **[From and after July 1, 2004, this section shall read as**

201 **follows:]**

202 25-3-33. The annual salaries of the following appointive  
 203 state and district officials and employees are fixed as follows:

204 Deputy Attorney General, not to exceed..... \$72,800.00  
 205 Assistant Attorneys General shall each  
 206 receive annual salaries in an amount  
 207 to be fixed by the Attorney General  
 208 but not to exceed..... 68,400.00

209 Military Department--National Guard:

210 Adjutant General..... 80,000.00

211 Department of Banking and Consumer Finance:

212 Commissioner..... 85,000.00

213 Chairman of the State Tax Commission

214 (Commissioner of Revenue)..... 91,000.00

215 Associate Commissioners, each..... 42,000.00

216 Director of Emergency Management Agency..... 65,000.00

217 Department of Public Safety:

218 Commissioner of Public Safety..... 80,000.00

219 Director, Office of Mississippi

220 Highway Safety Patrol, or

221 his successor..... 70,000.00

222 Director, Office of Support Services,

223 or his successor..... 70,000.00

224 Department of Human Services:

225 Director, not to exceed..... 85,000.00

226 Workers' Compensation Commission:

227 Chairman..... 80,000.00

228	Members, each.....	78,000.00
229	Executive Director.....	75,000.00
230	Administrative Judge, each.....	75,000.00
231	Archives and History:	
232	Director, not to exceed.....	70,000.00
233	State Forester.....	70,000.00
234	State Oil and Gas Board:	
235	Secretary-Supervisor.....	70,000.00
236	Educational Television Authority:	
237	Executive Director.....	70,000.00
238	Director, Mississippi Library Commission,	
239	not to exceed.....	70,000.00
240	Executive Secretary, Public Service	
241	Commission.....	65,000.00
242	Parole Board:	
243	Chairman.....	50,000.00
244	Administrative Assistant for	
245	Parole Matters.....	42,000.00
246	Members, each.....	44,000.00
247	Governor's State Bond Advisory Division:	
248	Director.....	55,000.00
249	Employment Security Commission:	
250	Executive Director, not to exceed.....	70,000.00
251	Executive Director, Department of	
252	Mental Health, to be determined by the	
253	State Board of Mental Health, not	
254	to exceed.....	85,000.00
255	Director, Division of Medicaid,	
256	not to exceed.....	85,000.00
257	Director, State Department of Transportation,	
258	not to exceed.....	85,000.00
259	State Entomologist.....	65,000.00
260	Clerk of the Supreme Court.....	60,000.00

261	State Aid Engineer, Division of State	
262	Aid Road Construction.....	70,000.00
263	Executive Director, Judicial Performance	
264	Commission.....	65,000.00
265	Executive Director, Department of Finance	
266	and Administration.....	85,000.00
267	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the	
268	Blind, to be determined by the State	
269	Board of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
270	Superintendent, Mississippi School for the Deaf,	
271	to be determined by the State Board	
272	of Education, not to exceed.....	65,000.00
273	Executive Director, State Fair Commission.....	65,000.00
274	Executive Director, Department of Wildlife,	
275	Fisheries and Parks.....	80,000.00
276	Executive Director, Department of Environmental	
277	Quality.....	85,000.00
278	Executive Director, Pat Harrison Waterway	
279	District.....	65,000.00
280	Executive Director, Pearl River Basin	
281	Development District.....	61,000.00
282	Executive Director, Pearl River Valley Water	
283	Supply District.....	71,000.00
284	Executive Director, Tombigbee River Valley	
285	Water Management District.....	61,000.00
286	Director, Soil and Water Conservation	
287	Commission.....	60,000.00
288	Commissioner, Mississippi Department of	
289	Corrections.....	85,000.00
290	Executive Director, Mississippi Department of	
291	Information Technology Services.....	85,000.00
292	Executive Director, Mississippi Industries	
293	for the Blind.....	60,000.00

294	Director, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics.....	60,000.00
295	Executive Secretary, State Veterans Affairs	
296	Board.....	55,000.00
297	Executive Officer, Veterans' Home Purchase	
298	Board.....	65,000.00
299	Chief Administrative Officer, Motor Vehicle	
300	Commission.....	55,000.00
301	Stadium Manager, Mississippi Veterans	
302	Memorial Stadium.....	55,000.00
303	Executive Director, Mississippi Arts	
304	Commission.....	55,000.00
305	Director, Mississippi Board of Nursing.....	60,000.00
306	Director, State Board of Pharmacy.....	60,000.00
307	Director, State Board of Public Contractors.....	50,000.00
308	Director, Real Estate Commission.....	55,000.00
309	Director of Support Services, Department	
310	of Rehabilitation Services.....	80,000.00
311	Executive Director, State Fire Academy.....	55,000.00
312	Executive Director, Law Enforcement	
313	Officers Training Academy.....	50,000.00
314	Executive Director, State Board of	
315	Accountancy.....	60,000.00
316	Executive Director, Mississippi	
317	Gaming Commission.....	90,000.00
318	Executive Director, Mississippi	
319	Department of Marine Resources.....	70,000.00
320	Executive Director, State Board of	
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322	Engineers and Land Surveyors.....	55,000.00
323	Executive Director, Public Utilities	
324	Staff.....	85,000.00
325	State Law Librarian.....	60,000.00
326	State Personnel Director.....	75,000.00

327           Manager, Farmers Central Market,  
 328                    Department of Agriculture and  
 329                    Commerce..... 40,000.00  
 330           State Veterinarian..... 70,000.00  
 331           Executive Director, Mississippi Ethics  
 332                    Commission..... 70,000.00  
 333           Transportation Commissioners .....85,000.00

334           SECTION 3. Section 25-3-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 335 amended as follows:

336           **[Until July 1, 2004, this section shall read as follows:]**

337           25-3-31. The annual salaries of the following elected state  
 338 and district officers are fixed as follows:

339           Governor..... \$101,800.00  
 340           Attorney General..... 90,800.00  
 341           Secretary of State..... 75,000.00  
 342           Commissioner of Insurance..... 75,000.00  
 343           State Treasurer..... 75,000.00  
 344           State Auditor of Public Accounts..... 75,000.00  
 345           Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce..... 75,000.00  
 346           Transportation Commissioners .....65,000.00  
 347           Public Service Commissioners..... 65,000.00

348           The above fixed salary of the Governor shall be the reference  
 349 amount utilized in computing average compensation and earned  
 350 compensation pursuant to Section 25-11-103(f) and Section  
 351 25-11-103(k) and to related sections which require such  
 352 computations.

353           **[From and after July 1, 2004, this section shall read as**  
 354 **follows:]**

355           25-3-31. The annual salaries of the following elected state  
 356 and district officers are fixed as follows:

357           Governor..... \$101,800.00  
 358           Attorney General..... 90,800.00  
 359           Secretary of State..... 75,000.00

360 Commissioner of Insurance..... 75,000.00  
 361 State Treasurer..... 75,000.00  
 362 State Auditor of Public Accounts..... 75,000.00  
 363 Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce..... 75,000.00  
 364 \* \* \*

365 Public Service Commissioners..... 65,000.00  
 366 The above fixed salary of the Governor shall be the reference  
 367 amount utilized in computing average compensation and earned  
 368 compensation pursuant to Section 25-11-103(f) and Section  
 369 25-11-103(k) and to related sections which require such  
 370 computations.

371 SECTION 4. Section 23-15-193, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 372 amended as follows:

373 23-15-193. At the election in 2003, and every four (4) years  
 374 thereafter, there shall be elected a Governor, Lieutenant  
 375 Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State  
 376 Treasurer, Attorney General, three (3) public service  
 377 commissioners, \* \* \* Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of  
 378 Agriculture and Commerce, Senators and members of the House of  
 379 Representatives in the Legislature, district attorneys for the  
 380 several districts, clerks of the circuit and chancery courts of  
 381 the several counties, as well as sheriffs, coroners, assessors,  
 382 surveyors and members of the boards of supervisors, justice court  
 383 judges and constables, and all other officers to be elected by the  
 384 people at the general state election. All such officers shall  
 385 hold their offices for a term of four (4) years, and until their  
 386 successors are elected and qualified. The state officers shall be  
 387 elected in the manner prescribed in Section 140 of the  
 388 Constitution.

389 SECTION 5. Section 23-15-297, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 390 amended as follows:

391 23-15-297. All candidates upon entering the race for party  
 392 nominations for office shall first pay to the proper officer as

393 provided for in Section 23-15-299 for each primary election the  
394 following amounts:

395 (a) Candidates for Governor not to exceed Three Hundred  
396 Dollars (\$300.00).

397 (b) Candidates for Lieutenant Governor, Attorney  
398 General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public  
399 Accounts, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture  
400 and Commerce \* \* \* and State Public Service Commissioner, not to  
401 exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

402 (c) Candidates for district attorney, not to exceed One  
403 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

404 (d) Candidates for State Senator, State Representative,  
405 sheriff, chancery clerk, circuit clerk, tax assessor, tax  
406 collector, county attorney, county superintendent of education and  
407 board of supervisors, not to exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00).

408 (e) Candidates for county surveyor, county coroner,  
409 justice court judge and constable, not to exceed Ten Dollars  
410 (\$10.00).

411 (f) Candidates for United States Senator, not to exceed  
412 Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

413 (g) Candidates for United States Representative, not to  
414 exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).

415 SECTION 6. Section 23-15-881, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
416 amended as follows:

417 23-15-881. It shall be unlawful for the \* \* \* board of  
418 supervisors of any county or any member of the board of  
419 supervisors of such county, to employ, during the months of May,  
420 June, July and August of any year in which a general primary  
421 election is held for the nomination and election of members of  
422 the \* \* \* boards of supervisors, a greater number of persons to  
423 work and maintain the \* \* \* public roads in any supervisors  
424 district of the county \* \* \* than the average number of persons  
425 employed for similar purposes in such \* \* \* supervisors district,

426 as the case may be, during the months of May, June, July and  
427 August of the three (3) years immediately preceding the year in  
428 which such general primary election is held. It shall be unlawful  
429 for the State Highway Commission, or the board of supervisors of  
430 any county, to expend out of the state highway funds, or the road  
431 funds of the county or any supervisors district thereof, \* \* \* in  
432 the payment of wages or other compensation for labor performed in  
433 working and maintaining the \* \* \* public roads of any supervisors  
434 district of the county \* \* \* during the months of May, June, July  
435 and August of such election year, a total amount in excess of the  
436 average total amount expended for such labor, in such \* \* \*  
437 supervisors district \* \* \* during the corresponding four (4)  
438 months' period of the three (3) years immediately preceding.

439 It shall be the duty of the \* \* \* board of supervisors of  
440 each county, respectively, to keep sufficient records of the  
441 numbers of employees and expenditures made for labor on the \* \* \*  
442 public roads of each supervisors district, for the months of May,  
443 June, July and August of each year, to show the number of persons  
444 employed for such work in each \* \* \* supervisors district \* \* \*  
445 during said four (4) months' period, and the total amount expended  
446 in the payment of salaries and other compensation to such  
447 employees, so that it may be ascertained, from an examination of  
448 such records, whether or not the provisions of this chapter have  
449 been violated.

450 It is provided, however, because of the abnormal conditions  
451 existing in certain counties of the state due to recent floods in  
452 which roads and bridges have been materially damaged or washed  
453 away and destroyed, if the board of supervisors in any county  
454 passes a resolution as provided in Section 19-9-11, Mississippi  
455 Code of 1972, for the emergency issuance of road and bridge bonds,  
456 the provisions of this section shall not be applicable to or in  
457 force concerning the board of supervisors during the calendar year  
458 1955.

459 SECTION 7. Section 23-15-883, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
460 amended as follows:

461 23-15-883. The restriction imposed upon the \* \* \* boards of  
462 supervisors of the several counties in the employment of labor to  
463 work and maintain the \* \* \* public roads of the several  
464 supervisors' districts of the county, as provided in Section  
465 23-15-881, shall not apply to road contractors or bridge  
466 contractors engaged in the construction or maintenance of \* \* \*  
467 county roads under contracts awarded by the State Highway  
468 Commission, or the board of supervisors \* \* \* where such contracts  
469 shall have been awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, after  
470 legal advertisement, as provided by law; nor shall the restriction  
471 imposed in Section 23-15-881 apply to the labor employed by such  
472 road contractors or bridge contractors in carrying out such  
473 contracts. Nor shall the provisions of this chapter apply to the  
474 employment by the \* \* \* board of supervisors \* \* \* of extra labor  
475 employed to make repairs upon the \* \* \* county roads or bridges,  
476 in cases where such \* \* \* county roads or bridges, have been  
477 damaged or destroyed by severe storms, floods or other unforeseen  
478 disasters.

479 SECTION 8. Section 23-15-887, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
480 amended as follows:

481 23-15-887. If any member of the \* \* \* board of supervisors,  
482 or the mayor or any member of the board of aldermen or other  
483 governing authority of any municipality, shall violate the  
484 provisions of this article, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor,  
485 and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not  
486 less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred  
487 Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a  
488 term not to exceed six (6) months, or by both such fine and  
489 imprisonment.

490 SECTION 9. Section 65-1-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
491 amended as follows:

492           65-1-5. When the transportation commissioners enter upon the  
493 duties of their office, the transportation commission shall meet  
494 and organize by the election of one (1) of its members to serve as  
495 chairman of the commission for the four-year term for which the  
496 commissioner shall have been chosen. The commission, a majority  
497 of which shall constitute a quorum, shall meet in regular session  
498 on the second Tuesday of each month at the office of the  
499 commission in Jackson, Mississippi; and at such regular sessions  
500 the commission may hear, continue and determine any and all  
501 matters coming before it. The commission may hold special  
502 sessions at the call of the executive director or the chairman at  
503 such times and places in this state as either of them may deem  
504 necessary. At such special sessions it may hear, continue,  
505 consider and determine any and all matters coming before it,  
506 provided that at least five (5) days' notice of such meetings  
507 shall be given to all the members of the commission beforehand. A  
508 special session may be called at any time without the foregoing  
509 notice, or any notice, if by and with the unanimous consent of all  
510 the members of the commission, but such unanimous consent shall be  
511 spread at large on the minutes of the commission.

512           The Mississippi Transportation Commission shall act as a  
513 legal entity, and shall only speak through its minutes, and in all  
514 matters shall act as a unit. Any action on the part of any member  
515 of the commission separately shall not bind the commission as a  
516 unit, but such individual member only shall be liable personally  
517 on his official bond.

518           The Mississippi Transportation Commission shall be a body  
519 corporate and as such may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded,  
520 in any court of justice having jurisdiction of the subject matter  
521 of any such suit. In any suit against the Mississippi  
522 Transportation Commission service of process shall be had by  
523 serving the secretary of the commission with such process; and a  
524 copy of the declaration, petition or bill of complaint, or other

525 initial pleading shall be handed the secretary along with the  
526 process.

527 SECTION 10. Section 65-1-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
528 amended as follows:

529 65-1-7. The \* \* \* commissioners chosen as herein provided,  
530 and their successors, shall each receive as compensation for their  
531 services salaries fixed by the legislature, and in addition shall  
532 be allowed all of their actual and necessary traveling and other  
533 expenses incurred in the performance of their respective official  
534 duties.

535 SECTION 11. Section 65-1-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
536 amended as follows:

537 65-1-21. The permanent district offices for the Office of  
538 Highways of the Mississippi Department of Transportation and for  
539 the repair and housing of the equipment and vehicles of the  
540 department provided for in paragraph (m) of Section 65-1-8,  
541 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall be at such location as the  
542 commission may establish. The Department of Transportation shall  
543 erect and maintain \* \* \* appropriate signs or placques designating  
544 such offices.

545 SECTION 12. The Attorney General of the State of Mississippi  
546 shall submit this act, immediately upon approval by the Governor,  
547 or upon approval by the Legislature subsequent to a veto, to the  
548 Attorney General of the United States or to the United States  
549 District Court for the District of Columbia in accordance with the  
550 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended and  
551 extended.

552 SECTION 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
553 and after the date it is effectuated under Section 5 of the Voting  
554 Rights Act of 1965, as amended and extended.