

By: Representatives Henderson, Espy, Mayo

To: Local and Private
Legislation

HOUSE BILL NO. 1708

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF THE TOWN OF
2 FRIARS POINT, MISSISSIPPI, TO OPERATE ITS NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION
3 SYSTEM WITHIN CERTAIN AREAS OUTSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE
4 TOWN OF FRIARS POINT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of Section
7 21-27-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, to the contrary, the governing
8 authorities of the Town of Friars Point in Coahoma County,
9 Mississippi, in their discretion, may construct, expand, operate
10 and maintain a natural gas distribution system to provide natural
11 gas service to the following described area if that area is not
12 certified to another natural gas utility for such service, or if
13 certified, upon obtaining a release from that utility and
14 obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from
15 the Public Service Commission:

16 Beginning at a point where the East bank of the
17 Mississippi River intersects the East boundary of
18 Section 16, Township 29 North, Range 4 West in Coahoma
19 County, Mississippi; thence South approximately 1 mile
20 to the Southeast corner of said Section 16; thence East
21 approximately 7 miles to the Northeast corner of Section
22 22, Township 29 North, Range 3 West; thence South 1 1/2
23 miles to the Southeast corner of the North 1/2 of
24 Section 27; thence West 2 miles to the Southwest corner
25 of the North 1/2 of Section 28; thence South 1 1/2 miles
26 to the Southeast corner of Section 32, Township 29
27 North, Range 3 West; thence West 4 miles to the

28 Southwest corner of Section 35, Township 29 North, Range
29 4 West; thence South 3 1/2 miles to the Northwest corner
30 of the South 1/2 Section 23, Township 28 North, Range 4
31 West; thence East 1 1/2 miles to the Northeast corner of
32 the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 28 North,
33 Range 4 West; thence South approximately 2 3/4 miles to
34 the Southeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of the
35 Northwest 1/4 of Section 1, Township 27 North, Range 4
36 West; thence West 1 mile to the Southwest corner of the
37 Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 2,
38 Township 27 North, Range 4 West; thence North 1 1/4
39 miles to the Northwest corner of the East 1/2 of the
40 East 1/2 Section 35, Township 28 North, Range 4 West;
41 thence West 1 3/4 miles to the Southwest corner of
42 Section 27, Township 28 North, Range 4 West; thence
43 North 2 miles to the Southeast corner of Section 16,
44 Township 28 North, Range 4 West; thence West 2 1/2 miles
45 to the Southwest corner of the East 1/2 of Section 18,
46 Township 28 North, Range 4 West; thence North
47 approximately 5 1/2 miles to the East bank of the
48 Mississippi River in Township 29 North, Range 4 West;
49 thence Northeasterly along the said East bank of the
50 Mississippi River approximately 2 1/2 miles to the East
51 boundary of Section 16 and the point of beginning, all
52 the above being in Coahoma County, Mississippi.

53 Whenever such service is furnished to any consumer residing
54 outside the corporate limits of the Town of Friars Point, the
55 consumer may not be charged at a rate greater than twice the rate
56 charged for the same service within the corporate limits of the
57 Town of Friars Point.

58 (2) The authority conferred by this act shall not be
59 construed as an exemption from the provisions of Chapter 3, Title
60 77, Mississippi Code of 1972. The Town of Friars Point must

61 obtain from the Public Service Commission a Certificate of Public
62 Convenience and Necessity and approval of all rates and changes
63 for providing natural gas service to those areas that are more
64 than one (1) mile outside its corporate boundaries, and the town
65 otherwise shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Public
66 Service Commission as authorized by applicable law.

67 (3) The governing authorities of the Town of Friars Point
68 must provide natural gas service to each consumer within the
69 distribution system who requests such service. For the purpose of
70 this subsection, the term "distribution system" means all areas
71 that are described in this act.

72 (4) The governing authorities of the Town of Friars Point
73 shall file annually with the State Auditor for his review a
74 financial report on the natural gas distribution system. The
75 audited financial statements shall be maintained in the office of
76 the system for public inspection and shall be made available to
77 the public during normal business hours.

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