AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO
ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO BE KNOWN AS THE "FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY
RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION PROGRAM" TO PURCHASE THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY SEGMENTS ON ROUTES THAT
ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE EXISTING FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY PROGRAM; TO
ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY ACQUIRED
UNDER THIS PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall
establish a program to be known as the "Four-Lane Right-of-Way
Acquisition Program" to purchase rights-of-way for the
construction of additional four-lane highway segments on routes
that are not designated in Section 65-3-97.

(2) Acquisitions of rights-of-way under the program
established under this section shall be made along routes
projected by the Department of Transportation to have a
significant future need for the location of a four-lane highway.
The determination by the Department of Transportation shall be
based upon public necessity and public safety, present and future
economic benefit and commercial value, present and future traffic
census and route continuity.

(3) In acquiring property under this program the Department
of Transportation shall make every reasonable effort to acquire
real property under this program expeditiously by negotiation
before resorting to acquisition by eminent domain proceedings.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2001.