

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott, Robertson

To: Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2524

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 65-31-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION TO WORK WITH ANY COLLEGE OR
3 UNIVERSITY IN THIS STATE THAT OFFERS A DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE
4 ARCHITECTURE OR AGRICULTURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION OF
5 HOSPITALITY STATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 65-31-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 65-31-1. The Mississippi Transportation Commission is hereby
10 authorized to locate, design, construct, operate, and maintain
11 hospitality stations on trunkline highways at or near points of
12 entry into this state from other states. In carrying out the
13 provisions of this chapter, the commission shall have authority to
14 employ such engineers, architects, skilled and unskilled labor as
15 may be determined necessary by the commission, for the preparation
16 of plans for such hospitality stations and their proper location,
17 design, construction, maintenance, and operation. The commission
18 also may employ full-time security officers, as authorized under
19 Section 65-1-131, and/or may contract for the employment of
20 private security officers, as authorized under Section 65-1-136,
21 to patrol and protect the property of hospitality stations and
22 visitors, patrons and other employees of hospitality stations.
23 The commission shall work with any college or university in this
24 state that offers a degree in landscape architecture or
25 agriculture to provide for beautification of such hospitality
26 stations and to ensure their proper horticultural maintenance.

27 Prior to the location of such hospitality stations the
28 commission shall afford the opportunity for a public hearing in

29 the county wherein such hospitality station is to be located for
30 the purpose of receiving testimony regarding the most feasible and
31 advantageous location for such hospitality station, at which
32 hearing all interested persons may appear and present testimony in
33 regard thereto. A notice of such proposed location shall be given
34 in some newspaper published or having general circulation in the
35 county wherein such hospitality station is proposed to be located.
36 Should a public hearing be requested thereon, notice by
37 publication shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the
38 date upon which public hearing is to be held and written notice
39 thereof shall likewise be given, within said time, to the
40 governing authorities of all municipalities within such county and
41 the governing authority of such county.

42 Each hospitality station constructed under the provisions of
43 this chapter shall be maintained and kept in a neat and attractive
44 condition.

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