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

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

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

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

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

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

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