

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Fees, Salaries and  
Administration;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2553

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-1-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PASSENGER VEHICLES AUTHORIZED FOR THE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 25-1-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 25-1-85. The following state departments, agencies or  
8 institutions are hereby allowed to purchase, own and operate, in  
9 strict accordance with the provisions hereof, passenger vehicles  
10 not to exceed the following numbers:

11	Office of the Attorney General.....	15
12	Agriculture and Commerce.....	23
13	Department of Economic and Community Development.....	14
14	Experiment Stations.....	16
15	Extension Service.....	1
16	Forestry Commission.....	48
17	Department of Transportation.....	<u>169</u>
18	Military Department.....	5
19	Department of Corrections.....	13
20	Parole Board.....	2
21	Mississippi Department of Public Safety.....	600
22	Division of Plant Industry.....	23
23	State Board of Mental Health.....	4
24	East Mississippi State Hospital.....	1
25	Mississippi State Hospital.....	2
26	Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the	
27	Mississippi State Tax Commission.....	30

28	Soil and Water Conservation Commission.....	5
29	Ellisville State School.....	1
30	North Mississippi Retardation Center.....	1
31	South Mississippi Retardation Center.....	1
32	Board of Health.....	13
33	State Oil and Gas Board.....	3
34	Each institution of higher learning, for police	
35	purposes, except that the University of	
36	Southern Mississippi may have 6 and any	
37	other institution with more than 6,000	
38	students may have 4.....	2
39	Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.....	60
40	Surplus Property Procurement Commission.....	4
41	State Tax Commission-station wagons.....	2
42	State Tax Commission-automobiles.....	6
43	Mississippi Gaming Commission.....	60
44	Department of Environmental Quality.....	12
45	Pearl River Valley Water Supply District.....	7
46	Pearl River Basin Development District.....	2
47	Pat Harrison Waterway District.....	1
48	Department of Transportation -	
49	Office of State Aid Road Construction.....	10
50	Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.....	2
51	Fair Commission.....	1
52	State Civil Defense Office (including	
53	communications vehicle).....	4
54	Bureau of Narcotics.....	167
55	Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport.....	6
56	Tombigbee Water Supply District.....	3
57	Board of Pharmacy.....	4
58	Yellow Creek State Inland Port Authority.....	1
59	Boat and Water Safety Commission.....	2
60	Department of Archives and History.....	2

61	State Fire Fighters Academy (station wagon).....	1
62	Office of Capitol Facilities - Capitol Police.....	5
63	Office of Building, Grounds and Real Property.....	1
64	State Veterans Affairs Board.....	15
65	Employment Security Commission.....	1
66	Forest Product Utilization Lab.....	1
67	Mississippi Board of Nursing.....	3
68	Certified Development Company of Mississippi, Inc.....	1
69	State Board of Medical Licensure.....	5
70	Mississippi Public Employees' Retirement System.....	4
71	Mississippi Public Service Commission.....	42
72	Department of Human Services.....	3
73	Department of Rehabilitation Services.....	4
74	Real Estate Commission.....	2
75	Mississippi Library Commission - station wagons.....	5
76	Boswell Regional Center.....	1
77	Hudspeth Regional Center.....	1
78	North Mississippi State Hospital.....	1
79	South Mississippi State Hospital.....	1
80	Motor Vehicle Commission.....	1
81	Office of the State Auditor.....	20
82	Division of Medicaid, Office of the Governor.....	3
83	Department of Marine Resources.....	10
84	Central Mississippi Residential Center.....	1
85	Juvenile Rehabilitation Center.....	1
86	Department of Education.....	1
87	Office of the State Fire Marshal.....	15
88	Liquified Compressed Gas Division of the	
89	Department of Insurance.....	10
90	Except as provided in Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-93, no	
91	state department, institution or agency shall purchase, operate or	
92	maintain any passenger vehicle out of any funds available for the	

93 use of such department, institution or agency, unless same has  
94 been or may be donated.

95 For purposes of this section, "passenger vehicle" shall be  
96 defined as a vehicle which is designed to transport four (4) or  
97 more persons and/or provides adequate seating for at least four  
98 (4) persons. The terms "luxury vehicle," "full-size vehicle,"  
99 "utility vehicle" and "carryall vehicle" shall be as defined by  
100 the industry.

101 Nothing in Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-93 shall be  
102 construed to prohibit agencies, departments and institutions from  
103 purchasing and operating passenger vehicles when used exclusively  
104 to transport patients, prisoners, students, faculty or staff of  
105 state institutions, blind and sighted employees essential to  
106 operate blind training programs or material, products and  
107 client-trainees in the sheltered workshop program, or bookmobiles.  
108 The superintendents of the Columbia Training School and Oakley  
109 Training School and the Commissioner of Corrections, or staff  
110 members designated by them, may use such passenger vehicles for  
111 other official functions and operations of those institutions at  
112 their discretion. Passenger vehicles or similar vehicles used for  
113 any other purposes shall be considered as automobiles and subject  
114 to the restrictions set forth in the aforesaid sections.

115 In addition to the motor vehicles authorized to be owned and  
116 operated by the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, said  
117 department is also authorized to receive, own and operate special  
118 purpose motor vehicles to be used solely in investigations.

119 Of the motor vehicles authorized to be owned and operated by  
120 the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, no more than twenty-one  
121 (21) vehicles may be kept for use by administrative personnel of  
122 the patrol whose principal duties are performed at the Highway  
123 Safety Patrol Headquarters Building and the Drivers' License  
124 Examining Station in Hinds County to commute to and from the

125 residence of said personnel to the office at which such duties are  
126 regularly performed.

127       Of the motor vehicles authorized to be owned and operated by  
128 the Mississippi Department of Transportation, not more than five  
129 (5) vehicles may be kept for use by administrative personnel of  
130 the department to commute between their residences and the offices  
131 at which their duties are regularly performed. The executive  
132 director of the department is authorized to allow additional  
133 department personnel to commute to and from their residences in  
134 department vehicles due to the nature of their job and for the  
135 safety of the traveling public.

136       Of the motor vehicles authorized to be owned and operated by  
137 the State Tax Commission, no more than four (4) vehicles may be  
138 kept for use by administrative personnel whose principal duties  
139 are performed at State Tax Commission offices in Hinds County to  
140 commute to and from the residence of said personnel to the office  
141 at which such duties are regularly performed.

142       The provisions of Chapter 226, Laws of 1964, remain in force  
143 and are not affected by this section.

144       Any state officer, employee or board member who violates any  
145 of the foregoing provisions of Sections 25-1-77 through 25-1-85  
146 shall be liable on his or her official bond for the total amount  
147 of the purchase price of the passenger vehicle, plus the total  
148 amount of funds expended in violation of said sections for the  
149 operating costs of such vehicle.

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